

Oxford Conference for the Book Participants, 1993–2002

KARL ACKERMAN has worked in a variety of jobs in publishing, including bookseller, sales representative, editor, reviewer, and organizer for the Virginia Festival of the Book. His first novel, *The Patron Saint of Unmarried Women*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and was optioned by Harpo Productions. His novel *Dear Will* was selected as one of the top 10 new books by independent booksellers of Book Sense (Spring 2000). He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia. (2000)

JEFFREY RENARD ALLEN is an associate professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York, where he teaches African American literature and creative writing. His essays, fiction, and poetry have appeared in numerous magazines, journals, and anthologies, including *Callaloo*, *Code*, *Notre Dame Review*, and *Caliban*. In 1999, Asphodel Press of Moyer Bell published his first book, *Harbors and Spirits*, a collection of poems with a compact disc of the author reading the entire text. In January 2000 Farrar, Strauss & Giroux published his first novel, *Rails Under My Back*, which won the *Chicago Tribune's* Heartland Prize for fiction. (2001)

JENNIFER ALLEN is the author of a short story collection, *Better Get Your Angel On*, and a contributing writer for *The New Republic*. She has published articles in *Rolling Stone*, *Mirabella*, and *Buzz* and has been a writing instructor at a number of schools, including UCLA and Bennington College. (1995)

STEVE ALMOND has published fiction in *Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, *Playboy*, *Ploughshares*, *Southern Review*, *Zoetrope*, and other periodicals. His debut collection of stories, *My Life in Heavy Metal*, was published by Grove/Atlantic. He lives in Boston, where he teaches creative writing at Boston College and Emerson College. (2002)

MOIRA AMBROSE has been a teacher and the wife of Stephen Ambrose for 30 years. They have raised five children and are enjoying their grandchildren. (1998)

STEPHEN E. AMBROSE, a former teacher, is the author of numerous books of history, including the best-sellers *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West* and *Citizen Soldiers*. (1998)

JOHN ARMISTEAD, a Baptist minister and a journalist, is the author of four mystery novels featuring the character Sheriff Grover Bramlett. His most recent book is *Cruel as the Grave*; *Babylon's Reward* is forthcoming. He lives in Tupelo, Mississippi, where he is religion editor for the *Daily Journal* newspaper. (1999)

ACE ATKINS, former crime reporter for the *Tampa Tribune* and author of *Crossroad Blues*, *Leavin' Trunk Blues*, says he “writes about music and murder and whatever else he finds along Highway 61.” He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2000 and the Livingston Award for outstanding journalism in 1999 and 2000. He is currently teaching journalism classes at the University of Mississippi. His new book, *Dark End of the Street*, is forthcoming. (2002)

JULIAN BACH is a literary agent in New York City. He began his agency 40 years ago and has represented such authors as John Fowles, Theodore H. White, Norman Cousins, Hedrick Smith, and – since 1971 – Pat Conroy. Author of *America's Germany (1946)*, Bach has been an editor of *Life* magazine, executive editor of *True*, and editor-in-chief of

Today's Woman. (1995)

KEVIN BAKER is the author of *Sometimes You See It Coming*, a novel based on baseball great Ty Cobb, and the newly released *Dreamland*, a historical novel set on Coney Island. He was the chief historical researcher for Harold Evans's recently published history, *The American Century.* (1999)

ANGELA BALL is the author of five collections of poetry: *Recombinant Lives*, *Kneeling Between Parked Cars*, *Quartet*, *Possession*, and *The Museum of the Revolution.* She teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi. (2000)

ALLEN BALLARD teaches history and African American Studies at the State University of New York at Albany. He is the author of *Where I'm Bound*, the first work of historical fiction to focus solely on soldiers of an African American regiment in the Civil War, published in 2000. He is also the author of two works of nonfiction. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Kenyon College and earned a doctorate in government from Harvard College. (2001)

DEBORAH BARKER is director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women's Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Among her publications are *Aesthetics and Gender in American Literature: The Portrait of the Woman Artist* and articles on Kate Chopin, Doris Betts, Edith Wharton, and Alice Walker. (2001)

CLAIBORNE BARKSDALE is executive director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. After earning B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Mississippi, he practiced law in Jackson for five years, was legislative coordinator for Senator Thad Cochran for four years, spent a year as a clerk for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has served as counsel for communications companies since 1983. Barksdale moved to Oxford in July 2000 with his wife and three children. (2001, 2002)

JOHN M. BARRY is the author of *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America.* As editor of *Dun's Review*, he covered national politics, and he has also written for the *New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, and *Sports Illustrated.* He lives in New Orleans and Washington, D. C.

HARRIETTE AND FRED BEESON are owners of Burke's Book Store in Memphis, Tennessee. Burke's, established in 1875, is one of the oldest bookstores in the United States. The Beesons have owned Burke's for 11 years. Harriette Beeson is a past president of the South Central Booksellers Association. (1995)

NANCY BERCAW is an assistant professor of history at the University of Mississippi. As part of her work for a degree in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, she wrote a dissertation on family and gender relations in the Mississippi Delta during the Civil War. She has also written on American popular culture in the 19th century. (1996)

JOHN BERENDT became an associate editor at *Esquire* in 1961 after graduation from Harvard, where he had been on the editorial board of the *Harvard Lampoon.* He was editor of *New York* magazine from 1977 to 1979 and wrote a monthly column for *Esquire* from 1982 to 1995. His first book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, won the 1994 Southern Book Award, was selected as a 1995 Pulitzer Prize finalist, and is currently over 100 weeks on the *New York Times* nonfiction bestseller list. (1996)

WENDELL BERRY, essayist, novelist, and poet, is the author of more than thirty books. *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry* gathers one hundred poems written between 1957 and 1996 and selected from nine previous collections. He has received numerous awards, including the T. S. Eliot Award and the Aiken-Taylor Award for Poetry from the *Sewanee Review*. He lives and works with his wife, Tanya Berry, on their farm in Port Royal, Kentucky. (1999)

MICHAEL BERTRAND is visiting assistant professor of history and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. The University of Illinois Press recently published his book *Race, Rock, and Elvis*. (1999)

SVEN BIRKERTS is the author of *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age* and three other books of criticism, most recently *American Energies: Essay on Fiction*. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *The New Republic*. Among his awards is the National Book Critics Circle Citation for Excellence in Reviewing. (1995)

ALYSHA E. BLACK is an archivist and outreach specialist at the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives. For the last five years she has been the director of *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920*, a project that features women's writings to Congress on some of the great issues and events in American history. Black is currently one of the editors working on the Center's newest educational resource, *Congress and the Shaping of American History*. (2001)

DAVID BLIGHT, a professor at Amherst College, has published books on Frederick Douglas and the Civil War and has been a consultant to several documentary films, including the 1998 PBS series *Africans in America*. He has also written many articles on abolitionism, American historical memory, and African American intellectual and cultural history. His new book, *Race, and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory, 1863-1915*, was recently published by Harvard University Press. (2001)

JOSEPH BLOTNER, professor emeritus, University of Michigan, has lectured extensively in the United States and Europe on American literature and particularly on the work of William Faulkner. Among his many publications are *Faulkner: A Biography*, published in two volumes in 1974 and in a revised, one-volume edition in 1984, and *Selected Letters of William Faulkner*. Professor Blotner now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, and recently completed a biography of Robert Penn Warren. (1996)

ROBERT BLY is the author of the bestseller *Iron John*, which launched the men's movement to national fame, as well as several collections of poetry. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (2000)

PAUL BOGAARDS is director of promotion for Alfred A. Knopf, one of the nation's most prestigious publishing houses. He has designed and implemented publicity campaigns and coordinated national tours for such authors as Julia Child, Allan Gurganus, Anne Rice, Jane Smiley, Donna Tartt, and John Updike. (1994)

RICHARD A. BOYD is a professor of educational leadership and interim director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. He has served as State

Superintendent of Education for Mississippi and as superintendent of school districts in Ohio. (2000)

RICK BRAGG is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *New York Times*. His best-selling memoir *All over but the Shoutin'* details his life growing up in Alabama. *Somebody Told Me*, a collection of his newspaper stories was published in 2000. (1998, 2000)

RICHARD H. BRODHEAD is the Bird White Houston Professor of English at Yale University and dean of Yale College. He has written and edited books on Hawthorne, Melville, Faulkner, and Chesnut, among others, and is the author of *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in 19th-Century America*. (1994)

CARRIE BROWN was a journalist and newspaper editor before earning an MFA in writing at the University of Virginia. She now teaches fiction writing at Sweet Briar College. Algonquin Books published both of her novels, *Rose's Garden* and *Lamb in Love*. (1999)

LARRY BROWN (1951-2004), former captain of the Oxford Fire Department, is the author of eight books, most recently *Billy Ray's Farm*. His story collection *Big Bad Love* is the basis for a new film starring Arliss Howard and Debra Winger. (1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2002).

MARY ANNIE BROWN was married to Larry Brown for 30 years and lives in the home that they built in Yocona, Mississippi. She works as an administrative assistant in Oxford. (1998, 2007)

JILL CONNER BROWNE lives in Jackson, Mississippi, where she writes a weekly humorous fitness column for the *Clarion-Ledger* and teaches weight lifting at the YMCA. Three Rivers Press, a Crown imprint, recently published her first book, *The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love*. (1999)

BILL BUFORD founded *Granta* in 1979 and served as editor of the London-based literary quarterly from then until 1994, when he became fiction literary editor of the *New Yorker*. He has edited *Best of Grant a Travel* and *Best of Grant a Reportage* and is the author of *Among the Thugs*, a work of nonfiction. (1994)

R. L. BURNSIDE, who was born just outside of Oxford, Mississippi in 1926, is known around the world as the primary living exponent of the hypnotic blues style of the north Mississippi "hill country." He also performs more modern blues with the Burnside family band, the Sound Machine. (1995)

ROBERT OLEN BUTLER is the author of eight novels, including the newly published *Mr. Spaceman*, and two collections of stories. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, he has received a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction and an NEA grant, as well as an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and teaches creative writing at McNeese State University. (2000)

MICHAEL CHING is the artistic director of Opera Memphis and director of its National Center for the Development of American Opera. (1994)

CATHERINE CLINTON has taught at many universities, including Harvard, Brandeis, CUNY, and the University of Richmond, and is currently Mark Clark Visiting Chair of History at the Citadel.

ANDREI CODRESCU is a professor of English at Louisiana State University and a regular commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has published over 20 books of poetry, fiction, autobiography, and essays. His memoir, *The Hole in the Flag*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 1991 and 1992. Codrescu lives in New Orleans, where he also edits a literary magazine, *Exquisite Corpse*.

JOHN Y. COLE is director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Among his publications are *For Congress and the Nation: A Chronological History of the Library of Congress*, *The Library of Congress: The Art and Architecture of the Thomas Jefferson Building*, and the *Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, the Nation, and the World*. He coordinates the National Book Festival, has helped all 50 states and the District of Columbia establish centers for the book, and inspired the creation of centers in several other countries. In 2000 the American Library Association presented him with its prestigious Lippincott Award. (1993, 1994)

STELLA CONNELL worked for three publishers in New York City after earning a degree in American Studies from the University of Alabama and studying at the Radcliffe Publishing Institute at Harvard. Recently, she returned home to Oxford, Mississippi, and established her own public relations firm and literary agency, Southeast Media and Literary Associates. (1999)

DONALD CONROY was a colonel in the United States Marine Corps. His son Pat Conroy, on the dedication page of *The Great Santini*, described him as "the grandest of fathers and marine aviators." (1995)

PAT CONROY is the author of several books, including *The Boo*, *The Water Is Wide*, *The Great Santini*, *The Lords of Discipline*, *The Prince of Tides*, and *Beach Music*. The publication of *The Prince of Tides* brought recognition to Conroy as a master storyteller and a poetic and gifted prose stylist. The novel, with over 5 million copies in print, has attracted readers internationally. Four of Conroy's books have been made into movies, including *Conrack*, based on *The Water Is Wide*, and *The Prince of Tides*. (1995)

SCOTT COOK, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, began his art training as a child studying with the painter Marie Hull. His first illustrated children's book, *The Gingerbread Boy*, was published in 1987 and, like his subsequent work, enjoyed wide acclaim. His sixth book, recently published by Simon & Schuster, is *With a Whoop and a Holler – A Bushel of Lore from Way Down South*. (1998)

NEAL COONERTY, president of the American Booksellers Association, has owned Bookshop Santa Cruz since 1973. For three years after the store was destroyed in California's Lorna Prieta earthquake of 1989, he operated Booktent Santa Cruz in a 5,000 square foot tent. He has served on the city council and as mayor of Santa Cruz. (2001, 2002)

SHARON CREECH is the author of a number of children's books, including *Walk Two Moons*, winner of the 1995 Newbery Medal and other awards. *Absolutely Normal* Chaos, based on her own "rowdy and noisy family," was published in 1995. Sharon Creech has also written two novels for adults, poetry, short stories, and a play. She grew up in Ohio and worked for the *Congressional Quarterly* and the Federal Theatre Project in Washington, D.C., before moving to England in 1979. At the school in Thorpe, Surrey,

where her husband is headmaster, she has taught American and British literature. (1996)

ANNA CREMALDI was an honor student and outstanding leader at Oxford High School. She is currently attending Carlton College. (1996)

MICHELLE CUOMO is an assistant professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Mississippi. She has performed, directed, and produced theatre across the country and in Europe. She most recently revived her one-woman performance *Witch Dance* in London and has acted and directed with Miss Elsie Productions, Oxford's newest theater company of which she is associate director. (2002)

CONSTANCE W. CURRY, in her new book *Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning*, assembled a memoir of one of Mississippi's major civil rights leaders, drawing on Henry's 1965 oral history of his life and on new material from her own interviews with his family, friends, and political associates. Curry is also the author of *Silver Rights*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award in 1996. She lives in Atlanta. (2000, 2003)

RICHARD H. BRODHEAD is the Bird White Houston Professor of English at Yale University and dean of Yale College. He has written and edited books on Hawthorne, Melville, Faulkner, and Chesnut, among others, and is the author of *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in 19th-Century America*. (1994) *World War II to Freedom Summer*. (2000)

PETE DANIEL is the curator in the Division of the History of Technology at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. His most recent book, *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*, chronicles the cultural history of the South from World War II to Freedom Summer. (2000)

ROSEMARY DANIELL is the author of *Confessions of a (Female) Chauvenist*, a collection of essays recently published by Hill Street Press. Hill Street has also issued her memoirs *Fatal Flowers: On Sin, and Suicide in the Deep South*, and *Sleeping with Soldiers*. Her other books include a novel, two collections of poetry, and *The Woman Who Spilled Words All Over Herself: Writing and Living the Zona Rosa Way*. Her features and reviews have appeared in such publications as *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mademoiselle*, *Mother Jones*, and the *New York Times Book Review*. (2001)

EDWIDGE DANTICAT was nominated for the 1995 National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award for *Krik! Krak!*, a collection of stories about the Haitian experience. The author, who moved to New York from Haiti at the age of 12, in 1981, has also written a critically acclaimed novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, published in 1994. She began writing seriously while attending public schools-and learning English-in Brooklyn, after which she earned an undergraduate degree at Barnard College and an MFA at Brown University. (1996)

LIZ DARHANSOFF is a literary agent with the Darhansoff & Verrill Literary Agency in New York City. (1993)

JANICE DAUGHARTY is the author of *Going Through the Change*, a collection of stories, and six novels: *Dark of the Moon*, *Necessary Lies*, *PanPaw Patch*, *Earl in the Yellow Shirt*, *Whistle* and most recently, *Like a Sister*. She lives in Southeast Georgia and is writer in residence in Valdosta State University. (2000)

MICHAEL P. DEAN is associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. He is primarily interested in

20th Century British and American literature, and he has published articles about T. S. Eliot, Robert Hayden, Ellen Douglas, and Larry Brown, among others. (2000, 2001, 2002)

JIM DEES is a writer and producer for the University of Mississippi-based Project LEAP (Learn, Earn, and Prosper), a literary project that uses satellite-transmitted telecasts to help educate disadvantaged adult students. (1994)

AVIN MARK DOMNITZ is a former president of the American Booksellers Association and chairman of the board of Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops in Milwaukee. A teacher, trial attorney, and frequent lecturer on various phases of the bookselling industry, he wrote the financial curriculum for the ABA Bookselling Schools and has written several articles and papers on bookselling. (1996)

ELLEN DOUGLAS, the pseudonym of Mississippi author Josephine Ayres Haxton, is a National Book Award finalist and the author of six novels and two collections of stories. Her first book of nonfiction, *Truth: Four Stories I Am Finally Old Enough to Tell*, was published last year. (1999)

TOM DRURY is an author whose first novel, *The End of Vandalism*, was published serially in the *New Yorker* before being in book form. He was recently selected by *Granta* as one of 20 Best Young American Novelists. (1994)

TONY DUNBAR is a practicing New Orleans attorney who has written five books, four of which comprise the popular Tubby Dubonney mystery series. His most recent book is *Shelter from the Storm*. (1999)

WYLENE DUNBAR lives in Oxford where she has been a philosophy professor and a lawyer. Her first novel, *Margaret Cape*, was published recently. (1998)

ALICE FAYE DUNCAN, a librarian, teacher, and author, lives and works in Memphis, Tennessee. In addition to two books for children, *Willie Jerome* and *Miss Viola and Uncle Ed Lee*, she wrote *The National Civil Rights Museum Celebrates Everyday People*, a guide to the museum's exhibitions on the history of racial oppression and the civil rights movement. (2000)

DAVID ANTHONY DURHAM is a writer whose first novel, *Gabriel's Story*, is about a young African American who moves to the West during Reconstruction. He is the recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Fiction Award and received an MFA from the University of Maryland.

ERMA DURICKO has directed off and off-off Broadway in New York City and at theaters all across the country. A member of the Society of Stage Directors/Choreographers for over 20 years, she is the founder and artistic director of Blue Roses Productions, Inc., a national production company dedicated to presenting the works of Tennessee Williams and nurturing and producing works by new American playwrights. An acting and directing teacher, she has taught at the University of Scranton, among others, and has given master classes on Tennessee Williams throughout the United States. (2002)

JOHN EGERTON is an independent writer of nonfiction who has been writing about his native South since the late 1950s. Among his books are *Generations*, winner of the Lillian Smith Award; *Southern Food*, winner of the Julia Child Award; and *Speak Now against the Day: The Generation before the Civil Rights Movement in the South*, winner

of the Robert F. Kennedy Award. *Shades of Gray: Dispatches from the Modern South* collects 13 of his articles from *American Heritage*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Southern Exposure*, and other publications. (1996)

TRISTAN EGOLF received seventy-six rejections before his first novel, *Lord of the Barnyard: Killing the Fatted Calf and Arming the Aware in the Corn Belt*, was published last year in France to great acclaim. Also published in England, Holland, and Spain, the novel made its American debut in March from Grove/Atlantic. (1999)

NATHAN ENGLANDER grew up in New York and lives in Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a recent recipient of the Pushcart Prize. His first collection of short stories is *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*. (2000)

MORGAN ENTREKIN acquired Atlantic Monthly Press in 1991 and Grove Press in 1993. As president and publisher of Grove/Atlantic, Inc., he says he tries "to carry on the tradition that Grove founder Barney Rosset created and to keep the spirit of independent publishing alive." Grove/Atlantic now publishes 75 to 80 titles a year. Among its authors are Kenzaburo Oe, Jean Genet, Barry Hannah, Jim Harrison, Richard Ford, Sherman Alexie, Fay Weldon, and Charles Frazier. (2000, 2001)

ROBBIE ETHRIDGE is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi. Her areas of academic specialization include historical anthropology, Southeastern Indians, environmental history, environmental anthropology, and cultural anthropology. (2000)

GENEVIEVE FABRE is a professor of literature and director of the Center of African American Research at Université Paris 7. She has written or co-authored books about James Agee, African American theater, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and American minorities. She has also edited a number of works, including *History and Memory in Afro-American Culture*, and contributed to several collected volumes and encyclopedias. Most recently, she edited, with Michael Feith, *Temples for Tomorrow: Looking Back at the Harlem Renaissance*. (2001)

MICHEL FABRE is professor emeritus and founding director of the Center for Afro-American Studies and Post-Colonial Literature at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3). One of the world's foremost scholars of African American literature, he is the author of *From Harlem to Paris: Black American Writers in France, 1840-1980* and numerous other works. Among them are *The World of Richard Wright*, *The Unfinished Quest of Richard Wright* and *Richard Wright: Books and Writers*. With Wright's widow, Ellen, he coedited *The Richard Wright Reader*. He was Ford Foundation Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi during the spring of 1988. (2001)

MICHAEL FARMER is vice president, director of design and production for Harcourt Brace & Company, Trade Publishers, in San Diego, California. He is the art director for Harcourt Brace Children's Books and oversees the design and production for all adult and children's book imprints. (1998)

LEIGH FELDMAN is a literary agent with the Darhansoff & Verrill Literary Agency in New York City. Among her clients is Cynthia Shearer, author of *The Wonder Book of the Air* and curator of William Faulkner's home in Oxford, Mississippi. (1996)

BETH ANN FENNELLY received the 2001 *Kenyan Review* Prize in Poetry for a First Book for her collection *Open House*. Her poems have been anthologized in *Poets of the New Century*, *The*

Penguin Book of the Sonnet, The Best American Poetry 1996, and the Pushcart Prize 2001. (2002)

NIKKY FINNEY was born in Conway, South Carolina, and was raised in several small towns across the state. She is on the faculty of the Department of English at the University of Kentucky. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *On Wings Made of Gauze and Rice*, and *Heartwood*, a collection of short stories written especially for literacy students. She is currently working on a new poetry collection and a novel. (2001)

GARY FISKETJON is vice president and editor-at-large at Alfred A. Knopf. He has edited the works of Don DeLillo, Richard Ford, Tobias Wolff, Jan McInerney, Cormac McCarthy, Donna Tartt, Bret Easton Ellis, and others. He won the 2006 Maxwell E. Perkins Award, which celebrates "excellence in the field of fiction." (1994)

RICHARD FLANAGAN is a novelist and filmmaker from Tasmania. He is the author of *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, which won the Australian Booksellers Book of the Year Award and the Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction, and which he also adapted and directed as a film. His novel *Death of a River Guide*, winner of the 1995 Victorian Premier's Literacy Award for First Fiction and the South Australian Premier's Literacy Award made its American debut in the spring of 2001. Grove/Atlantic is publishing his novel *Gould's Book of Fish* this spring. (2000, 2001, 2002)

RICHARD FORD was born in Jackson, Mississippi and raised in Mississippi and Arkansas. Ford received an MFA from the University of California at Irvine. After publishing two novels, *A Piece of My Heart* (1976) and *The Ultimate Good Luck* (1981), Ford took a job writing for *Inside Sports Magazine*. When the magazine was sold, he decided to write a book about a sportswriter; the resulting novel, published in 1986, received widespread acclaim: it was named one of five best books of 1986 by *Time* magazine. *The Sportswriter* was followed by *Rock Springs* (1987), a highly praised book of short stories, and in 1990 by a novel set in Great Falls, Montana, called *Wildlife*. His previous novel, *Independence Day*, won the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction, the first novel ever to win both awards. Other books include *Women with Men*, *A Multitude of Sins*, and *The Lay of the Land*. He is currently a professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Mississippi. (1994)

PATRICIA FOSTER grew up in Alabama and now teaches at the University of Iowa. She is the author of a memoir, *All the Lost Girls: Confessions of a Southern Daughter*, and editor of *Minding the Body: Women Writers on Body and Soul* and *Sister to Sister: Women Write about the Unbreakable Bond*. Her short stories and essays have been published in numerous anthologies and quarterlies. She has won both the PEN/Jerard Fund Award and the Mary Roberts Reinhart Award in nonfiction. (2001)

CONNIE MAY FOWLER is the author of the novels *River of Hidden Dreams*, *Sugar Cage*, *Before Women Had Wings*, and most recently, *Remembering Blue*. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *Allure*, *Southern Living*, and other publications. A native Floridian, she is heavily involved in the state's environmental issues. (2000)

DAN FRANK is senior editor and vice president at Pantheon Books, a division of Random House. He was previously editorial director at Viking Press from 1989 to 1991. He has published John Berger, Julia Blackburn, Alan Lightman, Terry Tempest Williams, and many other authors, as well as Cynthia Shearer of Oxford, Mississippi. (1996)

TOM FRANKLIN, currently John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the

University of Mississippi, is a widely published author of essays and stories. His first book, *Poachers*, is a collection of nine stories and a novella. The title story won the Edgar Award for Best Short Story and was selected for inclusion in several prestigious anthologies. (2002)

THOMAS FREELAND is an Oxford attorney and board member of the American Civil Liberties Union in Mississippi. (1993)

PATTY FRIEDMANN is the author of *Too Smart to Be Rich* and three novels: *The Exact Image of Mother*, *Eleanor Rushing*, and *Odds*. Her articles and reviews appear regularly in *Publishers Weekly* and other publications. She lives in New Orleans. (1999)

DAVID GALEF is professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are two novels, two children's books, more than sixty short stories, translations of Japanese proverbs, and articles on Joyce, Woolf, Conrad, Forster, T. S. Eliot, psychoanalysis and feminism, and postcolonialism. His latest book is *Laugh Track*, a collection of short stories recently published by the University Press of Mississippi. (2002)

WILLIAM GAY is the author of two novels, *The Long Home* and *Provinces at Night*. His short stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, and the 1999 and 2000 volumes of *New Stories from the South*. The winner of the 1999 William Peden Award and 1999 James A. Michener Memorial Prize, he lives in Hohenwald, Tennessee. (2000, 2001)

JACK GANTOS is the author of the *Rotten Ralph* picture book series and the award-winning *Jack* books for middle-grade readers. A resident of Santa Fe, he has taught creative writing at Emerson College and travels the country giving writing workshops for children. (1998)

TIM GAUTREAU is the author of the collection *Same Place, Same Things* and the novel *The Next Step in the Dance*. The *New York Times* included his book of short stories, *Welding with Children*, in the list of notable books for 1999. He has won a National Magazine award for his fiction, and his stories have appeared repeatedly in such journals as *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *GQ*, as well as in anthologies such as *Best American Short Stories*, *New Stories from the South*, and *O. Henry Prize Stories*. He holds a doctorate in English from the University of South Carolina and has taught fiction at Southeastern Louisiana University for thirty years. He was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1995-1996. (2002)

DAVID GERNERT, formerly an editor at Doubleday, is now an agent who represents John Grisham, Peter Guralnick, Stewart O'Nan, among others.

KAYE GIBBONS is the author of seven novels: *Ellen Foster*, *A Virtuous Woman*, *A Cure for Dreams*, *Charms for the Easy Life*, *Sights Unseen*, *On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon*, and *Divining Women*. For her work she has received the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction, an Ernest Hemingway Foundation Special Citation, and numerous other awards. (1993, 2004)

REGINALD GIBBONS is editor of *TriQuarterly*, one of the premier literary magazines in the United States. He is the author of a novel, *Sweetbitter*, a story collection, *Five Pears or Peaches*, and a collection of poems, *Maybe It Was So*. (1996)

MICHAEL L. GILLETTE has been director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration since 1991. He previously directed the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library's Oral History Program. He is the author of *Launching the War on Poverty: An Oral History* and has published numerous articles on politics and the civil rights movement. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Texas at Austin. (2001)

LOUISE GLÜCK is the author of six books of poems, including *The Wild Iris*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and *The Triumph of Achilles*, winner of the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry. She teaches at Williams College. (1994)

DAVID R. GODINE is regarded as one of the finest independent book publishers in America. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, his firm has published the work of William Maxwell, Mary Robison, William Gass, Stanley Elkin, and Donald Hall, among others. David R. Godine, Publisher, currently produces 30 or 40 books a year, maintaining high standards for quality materials, elegant printing, and an eclectic presentation of literature at an affordable price. The firm has received numerous awards, including the Carey-Thomas Award for Excellence in Publishing and the *Boston Globe's* Literary Press Award. (1995)

TOMMY GOLDSMITH is an editor and former music critic at the Nashville *Tennessean*. He also performs and composes country music. His songs have been recorded by Riders in the Sky, Uncle Walt's Band, the Nashville Bluegrass Band, and others. (1994, 1998)

GAY GOMEZ is the author of *A Wetlands Biography*, a community study of the Chenier Plains in southwest Louisiana. A cultural geographer, she teaches at McNeese State University. (2000)

PHILLIP GOUREVITCH is a staff writer for the *New Yorker*. His first book is *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*, an analysis of the genocide in Rwanda and the international community's response to this modern tragedy. It recently won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, 1998. (1999)

MICHAEL GRIFFITH has been associate editor of the *Southern Review* and a freelance book editor for the Louisiana State University Press since 1994. He also works as a freelance copy editor/proofreader for the University of Chicago Press, University of Georgia Press, Oxford University Press and Sandlapper Books. His short stories and nonfiction have appeared in numerous publications. His first novel, *Spikes*, was recently published by Arcade Publishing. (2001)

JOHN GRISHAM is the author of 10 novels: *A Time to Kill*, *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runaway Jury*, *The Partner*, *The Street Lawyer*, and *The Testament*. His works have set records for longevity on national bestseller lists. (1994)

PETER GURALNICK has written several books on American music, including *Searching for Robert Johnson* and the highly acclaimed two-volume biography of Elvis Presley, *Last Train to Memphis* and *Careless Love*. (1999)

MEL GUSSOW (1933-2005), acclaimed theater critic for the *New York Times*, has written over a thousand reviews and seen the debuts of the major theatrical works of

recent decades. He is the author of several books, including the recent *Edward Albee: A Singular Journey* and *Theatre on the Edge: New Visions, New Voices*. He coedited the Library of America's two-volume collection of the works of Tennessee Williams. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the George Jean Nathan Award for dramatic criticism. (2002)

DAVID GUTERSON is a contributing editor to *Harper's* magazine and the author of a collection of short stories, *The Country Ahead of Us, the Country Behind*, and of *Family Matters: Why Homeschooling Makes Sense*. His first novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, is one of 10 nominees for the 1995 American Booksellers Book of the Year (ABBY) Award, given annually by booksellers as the book they most enjoyed handselling over the previous year. (1995)

GRACE ELIZABETH HALE is assistant professor of history at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940* and essays in various journals and collections. (1999)

DANIEL HALPERN is editor of *Antaeus*, an international literary magazine, and editor-in-chief of Ecco Press. His *Selected Poems* was recently published by Knopf. (1994)

CAITLIN HAMILTON is the marketing director for MacMurray & Beck. (2000)

BARRY HANNAH is the author of ten works of fiction, including his first novel, *Geronimo Rex*, which was awarded the William Faulkner Prize and nominated for the National Book Award; *Ray*, nominated for the American Book Award; and *Airships*, a collection of stories widely regarded as a contemporary classic. His new novel is *Yonder Stands Your Orphan*. He is writer in residence at the University of Mississippi. (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002)

SUSAN VARAS HANNAH is working on a B.A. in art history and "still growing up," as she says. She has been married to Barry Hannah since 1986 and has two children, three step-children, and one new step-grandchild. (1998)

EVANS HARRINGTON (1925-1997) taught for many years at the University of Mississippi. He directed the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference for 20 years, wrote the script for the documentary film *Faulkner's Mississippi: Land into Legend*, and composed the book and lyrics for a musical comedy based on a Faulkner story. His publications include novels, short stories, and literary essays. (1994)

EDDY L. HARRIS is the author of several personal narratives, including *Mississippi Solo*, *South of Haunted Dreams: A Ride through Slavery's Old Backyard*, and *Still Life in Harlem*. He teaches at Washington University in St. Louis. (1999)

JIM HARRISON is the author of four volumes of novellas, including *The Beast God Forgot to Invent*, published by Atlantic Monthly Press, seven novels, seven collections of poetry, and a collection of nonfiction, *Just Before Dark*. He has been awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

BROOKS HAXTON is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Dances for Flute and Thunder: Poems, Prayers, and Insults from the Ancient Greeks*. His new book is *Fragments: The Collected Wisdom of Heraclitus*, which brings together the surviving Greek originals in a powerful new free verse translation. The son of novelist Ellen Douglas, he grew up in Greenville, Mississippi, and teaches at Syracuse University. (2000)

MELINDA HAYNES is a Mississippi native and currently a resident of Alabama. *Mother of Pearl*, her first novel, is a selection of Oprah's Book Club and a *New York Times* Bestseller. (2000)

WILLIAM HEATH is the author of *The Children Bob Moses Led*, a novel about the civil rights movement in Mississippi, and *The Walking Men*, a collection of poetry. His poems, stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in numerous literary journals. He teaches at Mount Saint Mary's College in Maryland. (1999)

REA HEDERMAN was executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger* from 1973 to 1982, during which time the Jackson, Mississippi, newspaper won virtually every major national award for journalism. He has been publisher of the *New York Review of Books* since 1984. He edited, with Robert B. Silver and Barbara Epstein, *The First Anthology*, essays published during the *Review's* first 30 years, 1963-1993. He also publishes *Granta* and the Italian monthly *La rivista dei libri*. (1994)

JERE HOAR is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi and an attorney. His first story collection, *Body Parts*, was recently published by the University of Mississippi. (1998)

W. KENNETH HOLDITCH, a prominent literary scholar and professor emeritus at the University of New Orleans, has written numerous short stories, poems, and essays on major Southern writers. He has edited the *Tennessee Williams Journal* since 1989 and, with *New York Times* drama critic Mel Gussow, edited the Library of America's two-volume edition of the works of Tennessee Williams. His most recent book, *Tennessee Williams and the South*, was published this spring by the University Press of Mississippi. (2002)

ENDESHA IDA MAE HOLLAND (1944-2006) is a professor at the University of Southern California's School of Theater and its Gender Studies Program. A native Mississippian, she is the author of several plays, including the autobiographical *From the Mississippi Delta*. The play enjoyed a successful six-month Off-Broadway run, with Oprah Winfrey as a producer, in 1992 and has subsequently been staged to rave reviews at theaters throughout the nation and abroad. (2000)

JESSIE HAMES HOLLAND, JR., is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. He is a 1994 graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he was editor of the student newspaper, the *Daily Mississippian*. After five years with the Associated Press in Columbia, South Carolina, he asked to transfer to the Albany, New York, bureau to cover the U.S. Senate race to fill Daniel Patrick Moynihan's seat. Holland recently moved to the AP's Washington, D.C., bureau, pursuing a long-held dream of reporting from the White House. A passionate advocate of diversity in the newsroom, he often visits college campuses to encourage African American journalism students to consider newspaper careers. (2001)

KIMBERLY WILLIS HOLT has won numerous awards and critical acclaim for her children's novels *My Louisiana Sky*, *Mister and Me*, and *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. The latter won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature and was among the

American Library Association's Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults for 1999. Her new book is *Dancing in Cadillac Light*. She lives in Amarillo, Texas, with her husband and daughter. (2001)

PAT HOLT was book editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle* for 16 years (1982-1998) before resigning to create and operate *Holt Uncensored*, an e-mail book column that grew out of her concern about the plight of independent bookstores in their struggle to survive chain bookstores, price clubs, discounters, and Internet suppliers. As a board member of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, she proposed that 1987 be declared "The Year of the Reader" and that 1989 be declared "The Year of the Young Reader." Both proposals were approved by Congress and enacted as public laws. In 1990 she became the first non-librarian in 40 years to receive the American Library Association's prestigious Grolier Foundation Award. (2002)

MARY HOOD is the author of a novel, *Familiar Heat*, and three collections of stories: *How Far She Went*, *And Venus Is Blue*, and *Survival, Evasion, Escape*. Her work has appeared in *Harper's*, *Art & Antiques*, *Gettysburg Review*, *North American Review*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Essays*, and other journals and collections. A recipient of the LSU/*Southern Review* Short Fiction Award, the Townsend Prize, a Columbia University National Magazine Award, and a Whiting Award, she was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1996. She lives on Cabin Creek in Jackson County, Georgia. (2002)

TONY HORWITZ is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. He is the author of *One for the Road* and the bestselling *Baghdad without a Map*. His book *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* is soon to be published by Pantheon. (1998)

JUDITH HOTTENSTEIN began her publishing career as an editor for Grove Press. She remained with the publishing house when it was merged with Atlantic Monthly Press in 1993 and is currently the director of marketing and publicity. (2001)

TOM HOUSE is a poet and folksinger who has published hundreds of poems in the United States and abroad. He has edited *Raw Bone* magazine since 1982. He has in current release a self-produced cassette *Inside These Walls* and *The Neighborhood Is Changing*, a Checkered Past CD included in a *Nashville Scene* 1997 Top 10 list. (1994, 1998)

RICHARD HOWORTH is the mayor of Oxford. He is the founder of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association. He is an organizer of the Oxford Conference for the Book. (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)

TIMOTHY HUGGINS is the proprietor of Newtonville Books in Newton, Massachusetts. Before earning an MBA from Boston University and opening his bookstore in 1998, he worked at Lemuria Bookstore in Jackson, Mississippi, and at the University Press of Mississippi. He is a member of the advisory council for the American Booksellers Association and the New England Booksellers Association. (2002)

T. R. HUMMER is the author of *Translations of Light*, *Angelic Orders*, *The Passion of*

the Right Angle Man, *Lower Class Heresy*, and *Walt Whitman in Hell*. He is also coeditor of a collection of essays on the poetry of James Dickey. A native of Noxubee County, Mississippi, he teaches creative writing at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. (1999)

AMY HUNDLEY has been an editor at Grove/Atlantic for six years. She works with authors including Barry Hannah, Jim Harrison, Darcey Steinke, Anne Enright, and Tristan Egolf. (2002)

GREG ILES, a musician and an author, has published *Black Cross* and three other novels. His most recent, *The Quiet Game*, is set in Natchez, where he lives, and unravels the murder of a black civil rights worker in the 1960s. (2000)

MARSARU INOUE teaches literature at Ferris Women's College in Japan. He first came to Oxford in 1983 to study and research, and met Willie Morris, with whom he shared a close and lasting friendship. He has published articles in Japan on Morris and many other Southern writers, including Barry Hannah and Larry Brown. (2000)

BEA JACKSON is the proprietor of Ivy Pages, a book packaging company she created in 1996 after 12 years of experience in publishing. Her work has won several awards, and her clients now include Chronicle Books and Simon & Schuster. (1998)

SHERI JOSEPH, a National Magazine Award finalist, has a PhD in English and creative writing from the University of Georgia and is an assistant professor of fiction writing at Kentucky's Morehead State University. Her debut, *Bear Me Safely Over*, published by Atlantic Monthly Press, is set in urban and rural Georgia and explores the interior lives of two families soon to be linked by marriage. (2002)

MITCHELL KAPLAN is the owner of Books & Books in Coral Gables, Florida, and serves on numerous American Booksellers Association committees. He is also cofounder and chairperson of Miami Book Fair International, described in the *Miami Herald* as "South Florida's best-attended cultural event and the largest literary festival of its kind in the country." (1994)

DONALD KARTIGANER is Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies Emeritus at the University of Mississippi and director of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. Among his many publications are *The Fragile Thread: The Meaning of Form in Faulkner's Novels*, and *Theories of American Literature*, which he coedited. (1994)

LASANA KAZEMBE is a poet, spoken word performer, technical writer, and founder of IBIS book publishers. The company emphasizes technical writing, but recently expanded into publishing poetry, essays, and fiction with African American interest. Kazembe is the author of the poetry collection *Nappyheaded Black Girls* and editor of *The Shadetree Anthology*, a forthcoming collection of work by writers from Chicago. (2001)

RANDALL KENAN is the author of *A Visitation of Spirits*, *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead and Other Stories*, and *Walking on Water: Black America on the Eve of the 21st Century*. Among his awards are the Mary Francis Hobson Medal for Arts and Letters, a Whiting Writers' Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Prix de Rome. He was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1997-1998 and now teaches at the University of Memphis. (1998, 1999, 2002)

ROBERT C. KHAYAT, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995. (1998, 2001, 2002)

STEPHEN KING is one of the most prolific and popular authors in the history of American books. Among his numerous bestsellers are *Carrie*, *The Shining*, *The Dead Zone*, and *The Stand*. *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, a collection of his short stories, is the first fiction published online by a mainstream trade publisher (Viking Press). (1994)

LAURENCE KIRSHBAUM is president and chief executive officer of Warner Books. He was a reporter for *Newsweek* in the 1960s, worked in sales and marketing at Random House and other publishers, and has served as presiding officer for the American Association of Publishers. He is coauthor of *Is the Library Burning?* (1994)

FREDRIC KOEPEL is book review editor of the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*. He also writes a national wine column for Scripps-Howard and is the author of two books of poetry, *October* and *Romance*. (1998)

MARY LYNN KOTZ is a contributing editor of *ARTnews* and has written numerous articles, a biography of the artist Robert Rauschenberg, and three other books. A native of Mathiston, Mississippi, and an alumna of the University of Mississippi, she lives in Washington, D.C., where she serves as a member of the board of directors for the National Archives Foundation. (2001)

COLBY KULLMAN is a professor English at the University of Mississippi, where he has twice been named Teacher of the Year. In addition to writing many articles on Tennessee Williams and other modern dramatists, he has also served as editor in chief of the two-volume reference work *Theatre Companies of the Contemporary American Playwrights* and coeditor of *Speaking on Stage* and *Studies in American Drama: 1945-Present*. (2002)

JAY LANGDALE was born and raised in Valdosta, Georgia, and graduated with honors from Mercer University in 1993 with a degree in political science. He is presently a graduate student in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi where his work has centered on Southern intellectual history. This spring, following completion of a thesis comparing the lives and writings of Walker Percy and Richard Weaver, he will receive his MA degree. Then, he plans to begin work on a doctorate in history. (1996)

JEFFREY LENT writes an epic of three generations of an American family in his first novel, *In the Fall*. The book, to be published in April, has been chosen as a Main Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. (2000)

W. T. LHAMON is the author of *Raising Cain: Blackface Performance from Jim Crow to Hip Hop* and *Deliberate Speed: The Origins of a Cultural Style in the American 1950s*. He teaches English at Florida State University. (2000)

STANLEY W. LINDBERG (1939-2000) is a professor of English at the University of Georgia and editor of the *Georgia Review*, winner of the 1986 National Magazine Award for Fiction. He is the author, with L. Ray Patterson, of *The Nature of Copyright: A Law of Users' Rights*. (1994)

JAMES LINVILLE is managing editor of the *Paris Review*. His nonfiction and interviews have been reprinted in *Harper's* and the *Pushcart Prize Anthology*. (1993)

JUDY LONG operates the Old Black Dog Bookstore in Athens, Georgia. She writes about readings and book signings in a weekly column for an Athens magazine and sponsors a monthly reading series that provides a forum for both published and unpublished authors to read from their work. (1996)

BEVERLY LOWRY was born in Memphis, grew up in Memphis, and currently lives in Montana. She is the author of novels *Come Back, Lolly Ray*; *Emma Blue*; *Daddy's Girl*; *The Perfect Sonya*; *Breaking Gentle*; a work of nonfiction, *Cross Over*; and a new novel, *The Track of Real Desires*, was published in spring of 1994. (1994)

LUCINDA MACKETHAN is professor of English at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. In addition to editing *Recollections of a Southern Daughter*, she is the author of two books on Southern literature, *Daughters of Time* and *The Dream of Arcady*. (1999)

BILL MALONE, emeritus professor of history at Tulane University, is the author of three major books on the music of the South: *Country Music U.S.A.*, *Southern Music/American Music*, and *Singing Cowboys and Musical Mountaineers: Southern Culture and the Roots of Country Music*. (1999)

DOUG MARLETTE (1949-2007) became editorial cartoonist for the *Charlotte Observer* in 1972 and joined the *Atlanta Constitution* in 1987 and *New York Newsday* in 1989, a year after receiving a Pulitzer Prize. He is the first and only cartoonist to be awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. His work has been collected in 15 books, most recently *Faux Bubba: Bill and Hillary Go to Washington* and *Gone with the Kudzu*. He wrote, with novelist Pat Conroy, the screenplay *Ex*. He worked with the Red Clay Ramblers on a musical based on his popular comic strip *Kudzu*, syndicated in over 300 newspapers worldwide. (1995)

REGINALD MARTIN edited the anthology *Erotique Noire*, which has gone through 35 printings since it appeared in 1992, and the sequel, *Dark Eros*, in 1997. Among his other publications are *Ishmael Reed and the New Black Aesthetic Critics*, *Primary and Secondary Annotated Bibliography of New Black Aesthetic Criticism*, collections of poetry (*Southern Secrets*) and short stories (*Dysfunction Junction*), and a novel (*Everybody Knows What Time It Is*). He teaches in the English Department at the University of Memphis. (2001)

ALANE MASON, an editor at W. W. Norton & Co., has published, among other books, Magda Denes's *Castles Burning* and *Last Days of the Dog-Men* by Brad Watson. (1998)

JOHN F. MARSZALEK is the author of *The Petticoat Affair: Manners, Mutiny, and Sex in Andrew Jackson's White House* and has written or edited nine other volumes on American history. He is a professor of history at Mississippi State University. (1998)

SCOTT MCCOY is associate professor of theatre arts and producing director of the Festival of Southern Theatre at the University of Mississippi. Previously a professional director and actor in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, he served as artistic director for Eastside Theatre and founded Chimera Theatre. (2007)

FIONA MCCRAE became the director of Graywolf Press in 1994. She has recently published work by Natasha Trethewey, W. D. Snodgrass, and Debra Spark. (2002)

JEANNE MCCULLOCH is editor-at-large for the *Paris Review*. Her work has

appeared in *Vogue*, *Mirabella*, and the *New York Times*. (1993)

JUDITH MCCULLOH is assistant director and executive editor of the University of Illinois Press, where she serves as general editor of the Music in American Life series. With Bill Malone she edited *Stars of Country Music*. Recently she was reappointed to the board of trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. She earned her doctorate in folklore at Indiana University. (1999)

MICHAEL MCDONNELL is president of West Union Corporation in Memphis, Tennessee. A graduate of Yale with a major in history, he is a founding member of Wolf River Book Club, which had met monthly for more than two decades. Shelby Foote is one of the seven members of the club. (1995)

KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published essays and lectured on Ellen Glasgow, Kaye Gibbons, Bobbie Ann Mason, and other authors. (1999, 2001)

JOHN MCLEOD is publicity manager for Counterpoint Press in Washington, D.C. He previously worked as publicist at Algonquin Books and at a used and rare bookstore in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he helped start a reading series featuring Doris Betts, Reynolds Price, James Seay, and other authors living in that area. (1999)

JOYCE MESKIS is owner of the Tattered Cover Book Store in Denver, Colorado, one of the largest and most beloved bookstores in the country. A former president of the American Booksellers Association, she currently serves on the Board of the American Booksellers Foundation for Freedom of Expression. Among the many awards she has received are an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Denver and the Women's National Book Association's Book Woman, recognizing her as one of 70 who have made a difference in the world of books 1917-1987. (1995)

GREG MICHAELSON is managing editor of the *Missouri Review* and was the general fiction editor at MacMurray & Beck. He edited William Gay's well-received first novel *The Long Home*. (2000)

BILL MINOR, considered by many as the dean of Mississippi journalists, has written thousands of columns about Mississippi politics during the past several decades, first for the *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans and later as an independent syndicated writer. His work regularly appears in newspapers across the South. A collection of his columns was recently published in a volume titled *Eyes on Mississippi*. (2001)

ELIZABETH MITCHELL, a former executive editor at *George* magazine, caused waves with her top-rate journalistic endeavor, *W: Revenge of the Bush Dynasty*. Mitchell's even-handed account unravels an intricate family legacy and introduces us to a strong new voice in political journalism. (2000)

MARGAREE KING MITCHELL, a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi, is the author of several stories and plays. Her first children's book, *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*, published by Simon & Schuster in 1993, has received numerous awards and was featured on the PBS programs *Reading Rainbow* and *Story time*. Her second children's book, *Granddaddy's Gift*, appeared in the spring of 1997. (1994)

RICK MOODY is the author of the novels *Purple America*, *The Ice Storm*, and *Garden State*, along with two story collections, *The Brightest Ring of Angels around Heaven* and *Demonology*.

He is a past recipient of the Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and, in 2000, won a Guggenheim Fellowship. His acclaimed fiction and essays have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *Grand Street*, *Details*, and the *New York Times*. He lives in New York. (2002)

ROBERT MORGAN is the author of ten volumes of poetry and six works of fiction, including *The Truest Pleasure: A Novel* and the forthcoming *Gap Creek*. His many honors for his writing include several fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and a poetry prize from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. A native of North Carolina, he is an English professor at Cornell University. (1999)

JOANNE PRICHARD MORRIS is an author, editor, and publisher. As executive editor of the University Press of Mississippi, she acquired and worked closely with the Anderson family to bring into publication 10 books featuring Walter Anderson's art and writing. She is the coauthor of *Barefootin ' : Life Lessons on the Road to Freedom* and *Yazoo: Its Legends and Legacies*. The widow of Willie Morris, she lives in Jackson. (2000)

WILLIE MORRIS is a former editor of *Harper's* and the author of *Good Ole Boy*, *North Toward Home*, *The Courting of Marcus Dupree*, and *After All, It's Only a Game*. His newest work, *New York Days* will appear this summer. (1993)

JANE MULLEN lives and writes in Oxford, Mississippi. Her stories have appeared in numerous literary magazines and in a debut collection, *A Complicated Situation* (SMU Press), published in the fall of 1998. Her first novel, *Sea Light* was published in 2006. (1999)

ANDREW P. MULLINS JR. is assistant to the Chancellor at the University of Mississippi. He also is an associate professor in the School of Education and teaches in the Mississippi Teacher Corps Program. He previously served as a special assistant to two governors and three state superintendents of education. His book *Building Consensus: A History of the Passage of the Education Reform Act of 1982* gives an account of the political process involved in the efforts of Governor William Winter's administration to change the education system in Mississippi. (1996, 1999)

JACK NELSON, chief Washington correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, is the recipient of the 1999 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Lifetime Achievement. He worked for the *Biloxi (Mississippi) Daily Herald* and the *Atlanta Constitution* before moving to the *Los Angeles Times*. He served as chief of its Washington bureau for more than two decades. His books include *Beyond Reagan: The Politics of Upheaval* and *Terror in the Night: The Klan's Campaign against the Jews*. He was national chairman of Covering the South: A Symposium on the Media and the Civil Rights Movement, held at the University of Mississippi in April 1987 and broadcast live over C-SPAN. (2002)

LEWIS NORDAN is the author of three novels – *The Music of the Swamp*, *Wolf Whistle*, and *The Sharpshooter Blues* – and *Sugar among the Freaks*, selected stories from his collections *Welcome to the Arrow-Catcher Fair* and *The All-Girl Football Team*. The setting for his fiction is Arrow Catcher, a place similar to his hometown of Itta Bena in the Mississippi Delta. His most recent book is *Boy with Loaded Gun*, a memoir. He teaches creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. (1996, 2000)

EUGENE NORRIS was an English teacher at the high school in Beaufort, South

Carolina, in 1960 when 15-year-old Pat Conroy enrolled in his class. Norris recognized the youth's potential as a writer and encouraged him to develop his talent. Since then, the two have maintained a fast friendship. (1995)

PAUL OLIVER is one of the founders of modern blues scholarship, with the publication of *Blues Fell This Morning* in 1961. His friend Richard Wright wrote the introduction to the book. Oliver's *Story of the Blues*, more than three decades after its first publication (1969), remains the most durable narrative of blues history. Although residing in England, he has been a guiding mentor for the blues researchers and writers on both sides of the Atlantic for over 40 years. (2001)

THOMAS OLIPHANT is Washington correspondent for the *Boston Globe* and a nationally syndicated columnist. A noted political commentator, he is a frequent guest on *The News Hour* with Jim Lehrer. (2002)

DAVID OLNEY is a singer-songwriter who has recorded several albums. He recruited three other Nashville musicians to collaborate with him in adapting William Faulkner to the musical stage. (1994)

STEWART O'NAN is the author of the story collection *In the Walled City*, winner of the Drue Heinz Literary Prize. His novels *Snow Angels*, *The Names of the Dead*, *The Speed Queen*, *A World Away*, and *A Prayer for the Dying* have earned him numerous awards and *Granta's* designation as one of America's best young writers. Among his nonfiction are *The Circus Fire* and the anthology *The Vietnam Reader*, which he edited. His new novel, *Everyday People*, will be released in the spring of 2001. He lives with his family in Connecticut. (1999, 2001)

CLAIRE BRADLEY ONG is a production manager at Alfred P. Knopf. She is responsible for all phases of production from manuscript to bound book, working with Richard Ford, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Anne Tyler, Doris Betts, Jane Smiley, and many other notable authors. (1998)

TED OWNBY is the author of *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920* and *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1998*. He teaches Southern Studies and history at the University of Mississippi. (1999, 2000, 2001)

JAMES PARINS is a professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and founder of the Student Literacy Corps, a program that gives college credit to undergraduates who tutor in local high schools. With a colleague he compiled a definitive bibliography of American Indian periodicals. (1995)

ANN PATCHETT is the author of two critically acclaimed novels, *The Patron Saint of Liars* and *Taft*. Her short fiction has appeared in the anthologies *20 Under 30* and *The Best of the Henjield Prize Winners*. She was named a Bunting Institute Fellow at Radcliffe College in 1993. (1995)

WILLIAM PEARSON is a semi-retired cotton farmer in Sumner, Mississippi. He studied English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and since 1973 has been a member of the Wolf River Book Club in Memphis, Tennessee. (1995)

KARREN PELL is a country music songwriter, producer, and performer whose songs

have hit the Billboard charts and achieved Gold Record status in Europe. She teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery and recently presented her *Alabama Troubadours* composition for the Southern Voices Conference in Hoover, Alabama. (1994, 1998)

GEORGE PENICK earned a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and became president of the Foundation for the Mid-South in 1990. He has served in numerous leadership roles in philanthropy and is currently on the board of directors for the Council on Foundations. (1995)

STELLA PEVSNER wrote her first novel for young readers at the request of her son, the eldest of her four children. That was in 1968 – and 16 books ago. That first book, *Break a Leg!*, has been followed by such titles as *A Smart Kid Like You*; *And You Give Me a Pain, Elaine*; *How Could You Do It, Diane?*; *The Night the Whole Class Slept Over*; *I'm Emma: I'm a Quint*; *Jon, Flora, and the Odd-eyed Cat*; and, most recently, *Would My Fortune Cookie Lie?* Stella Pevsner, an Illinois native who grew up in Lincoln and now lives in Chicago, has won many awards for her writing. (1996)

ARTHUR PEYTON is a former chairman of the National Association of State Boards of Education and a past member of the Mississippi State Board of Education. (1993)

PHIL PFEFFER is publisher of Random House. He was previously chairman and chief executive officer of Nashville-based Ingram Distribution Group Inc., the largest book distributor in North America. (1993)

CARYL PHILLIPS is the author of five novels, including *Cambridge* and the recently published *Crossing the River*. He has written scripts for films and stage, and a nonfiction book, *The European Tribe*, winner of the 1987 Martin Luther King Memorial Prize. (1994)

JAYNE ANNE PHILLIPS is the author of five books, among them the acclaimed *Black Tickets* and *Machine Dreams*, and most recently, *MotherKind*. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and a Burning Fellowship. She has been awarded the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and an Academy Award in Literature by the American Academy for Arts and Letters. She is currently writer in residence at Brandeis University. (2001)

GLORIA JEAN PINKNEY was born in Lumberton, North Carolina, where she set her first book, *Back Home*, which received an American Library Association notable book award and rave reviews. She is also the author of *The Sunday Outing* and *In the Forest of Your Remembrance*. Her husband, illustrator Jerry Pinkney, illustrated these books. Their sons, illustrators Brian and Myles Pinkney, also contributed to *In the Forest*, and author Clifton L. Taulbert wrote the introduction. (2002)

GEORGE PLIMPTON is a founding editor of the *Paris Review* and the author of, among other books, *Paper Lion*, *Shadow Box*, and *X-Factor*. He has edited many works, including the *Norton Anthology of Sports Literature*, *The Writer's Chapbook: A Compendium of Fact, Opinion, Wit and Advice from the Twentieth Century's Preeminent Writers*, and the recently completed ninth volume of the *Writers at Work* series of *Paris Review* interviews. (1993)

NOEL POLK, professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi, is editor of definitive texts of Faulkner's works. In addition, he is a notable Welty scholar and the author of *Eudora Welty: A Bibliography of Her Work*. (1999)

PADGETT POWELL has received the Prix de Rome of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Whiting Writers' Award, and a nomination for the National Book Award. He is the author of three novels—*Edisto*, *Edisto Revisited*, *A Woman Named Drown* and *Typical*, a collection of stories. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, and many other publications. He teaches at the University of Florida. (1996)

JOHN A. PRITCHARD is executive director of the Mississippi Library Commission. Before moving the Mississippi in October 1997, he was director of a library system in North Carolina. (1999)

DARDEN ASBURY PYRON is professor of history at Florida International University and the author of *Southern Daughter: The Life of Margaret Mitchell*. He edited the book *Recasting: "Gone with the Wind" in American Culture*. His essays and reviews have appeared in numerous journals, magazines, and newspapers. (1995)

AISHAH RAHMAN teaches creative writing at Brown University. Her recent works include a play, *Chiaroscuro: A Light (and Dark) Comedy*, a story collection, *If Only We Knew*, and an acclaimed memoir, *Chewed Water*. (2002)

FRED RAMEY was publisher at MacMurray & Beck. (2000)

CAROL HAMPTON RASCO is senior advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, and director of the America Reads Challenge. She previously served four years as President Clinton's chief domestic policy advisor and ten years on Governor Clinton's staff in Arkansas. (1999)

JAMES RANSOME is the illustrator of Margaree King Mitchell's *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* as well as six other books for children. These include *Do Like Kyla*, which received an award from *Parenting Magazine*, and *Aunt Flossie's Hats*, winner of the Parents' Choice Foundation's and Reading Teacher awards. (1994)

BERNARD RATH was formerly executive director of the American Booksellers Association and publisher of *American Bookseller*, a monthly trade magazine serving 29,000 book industry readers. He serves on numerous book trade, literacy, and freedom of expression boards and committees, and he has written numerous articles and addressed groups worldwide of book industry topics. (1994)

SHANNON RAVENEL is editorial director of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill as well as editor of its annual collection of *New Stories from the South*. From 1977 to 1990 she served as series editor for *Best American Short Stories*, and she edited *The Best American Short Stories of the Eighties*.

JANISSE RAY is the author of the memoir *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, winner of the recent Southeast Booksellers award for nonfiction. A naturalist and environmental activist, she lives in Baxley, Georgia, and is a nature commentator for Georgia Public Radio. (2000)

MARY LYN RAY is the author of several books for children, including *Pumpkins*, *A Rumbly Tumbly Glittery Gritty Place*, *Pianna*, *Alvah and Arvilla*, and *Shaker Boy*. She grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, studied at Smith College and at the University of Delaware as a fellow at the Winterthur Museum, and now lives on a farm in South

Danbury, New Hampshire. A scholar who has studied Shaker life for many years, she tries to bring to her stories the simplicity and economy of line she has learned from the Shakers. (1995)

THE RED CLAY RAMBLERS, a North Carolina string band, has roots in old-time mountain music, as well as country, rock, Dixieland, bluegrass, and gospel. In 1974, two years after forming in Chapel Hill, the group released its first album and created *Diamond Studs*, a musical about Jesse James. The Ramblers appeared in the musical's eight-month off-Broadway run, in the pre-Broadway run of *Big River*, in plays and movies by Sam Shepard, and in productions of *Fool Moon* on Broadway and in Austria and Germany. The Ramblers have often been guests on *A Prairie Home Companion* and have toured extensively in North America and in Europe. They are completing a musical based on Doug Marlette's cartoon strip *Kudzu*. Ramblers pianist Bland Simpson teaches creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the author of *The Great Dismal: A Carolinian's Swamp Memoir* and *Heart of the Country*, a novel of Southern music. Also, with Jim Wann, he wrote *King Mackerel and the Blues Are Running: Songs and Stories of the Carolina Coast*, a musical that recently had an extended run in New York. Other members of the band are Clay Buckner, Chris Frank, Jack Herrick, Robb Ladd, and Mark Roberts. (1995)

MARK RICHARD is the author of two collections of stories, *The Ice at the Bottom of the World*, winner of the 1990 PEN/Ernest Hemmingway Foundation Award for the best first published book of fiction. His acclaimed first novel, *Fishboy: A Ghost Story*, appeared in 1993. He is taught at the University of Mississippi in 1994-1995, thanks to a visiting writers program funded by John and Renée Grisham. (1995)

LUCINDA D. ROBB worked for the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives from 1993 to 1997, first researching and developing an exhibition and educational materials on the presidency of Thomas Jefferson and then serving as director for *Our Mothers Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789-1920*. Since 1997 she had worked for the Teaching Company, recruiting lecturers and scholars to develop college level course on tape. (2001)

CHARLES ROBINSON is a former president of the American Booksellers Association. He and his wife, Dee, opened Village Books in Bellingham, Washington, in 1980. In 1991 the store received the Governor's Award for its volunteer involvement in the community. (1994)

HAZEL ROWLEY is the author of a biography of Richard Wright, soon to be published by Henry Holt. Her articles on Wright have appeared in *Partisan Review*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, and *Antioch Review*. Her previous book, a biography of the expatriate Australian writer Christina Stead, was a 1994 *New York Times* Notable Book. She is a residential fellow at the W. E. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University. (2001)

MARLY RUSOFF, for 12 years an independent bookseller in Minneapolis, in 1974 founded The Loft, a literary center that has become one of the largest educational organizations in support of writing in America. She moved to New York in 1980 and was the vice president and associate publisher at Doubleday. Her creation of "Book Group Companion to Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride*" initiated a trend among publishers to produce materials supporting book groups in America. (1995)

JAMES SALEM, chair of the American Studies Department at the University of

Alabama. Among his numerous publications are *The Late Great Johnny Ace* and *The Transition from R&B to Rock'n'Roll*. (2000)

DAVID SANJEK is director of BMI Archives and U.S. chair of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. He is the author, with Richard Sanjek, of two books on the American popular music business in the 20th century. (2000)

DAVID SANSING is professor of history emeritus at the University of Mississippi. (2000)

ANDRE SCHIFFRIN's colorful life in publishing has been centered at Pantheon Books, where for 28 years he was both operational and editorial director, publishing many of the most important books of the 20th century, including the work of Gunnar Myrdal, Eric Hobsbawm, Studs Terkel, Simone de Beauvoir, Marguerite Duras, Michel Foucault, Anita Brookner, and many more great writers. He has written for many magazines and journals, served on various boards and advisory committees for the arts and humanities, taught and consulted in numerous foreign countries, and taught or advised in positions at Princeton, Wesleyan, and his alma mater, Yale. As a postgraduate student at Cambridge, he was the first American to edit the University's literary magazine, *Granta*. He established the New Press in 1990. (1995)

ELAINE H. SCOTT is former chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education, a member of the Education Commission of the States (1987-1997), and a leader in several organizations concerned with education, teacher training, libraries, and literacy. She has been involved with the Reading Is Fundamental program since 1974 and received the RIF Leader for Literacy Award in 1994. She is editor of the Ledbetter Monograph Series at the Center for Arkansas Studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)

MELISSA SCOTT grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, and earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard and a PhD in history from Brandeis before pursuing her primary passion – writing science fiction. Winner of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Science Fiction Writer in 1986 and two-time winner of the Lambda Literary Award (1995, 1996), she has published 17 novels and *Conceiving the Heavens*, a nonfiction book about writing science fiction. (1999)

JAMES SEAY is the author of four books of poetry, most recently, *Open Field*, *Understory: New and Selected Poems*, and has published essays in magazines and literary journals ranging from *Esquire* to *Antaeus*. He grew up in Panola County, Mississippi, and teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Among his honors are an Emily Clark Balch Prize and a literature award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. (1999)

ROSA SHAND teaches at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The recipient of numerous fellowships, including the Katherine Anne Porter Fiction Prize, she has published over 30 short stories in literary reviews. Her first novel, *In the Gravity of Sunlight*,

appeared in 2000. (2000)

CYNTHIA SHEARER lives with her husband and daughter in Oxford, Mississippi, where she teaches in the English Department at the University. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Ladies Home Journal*, *Triquarterly*, and *Missouri Review*, among others. Her first novel, *The Wonder Book of the Air*, won the 1996 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters prize for fiction. She received an NEA fellowship in fiction for 2000. Her second novel, *The Celestial Jukebox*, is forthcoming. (1996, 2001)

DAVID SHIELDS is a scholar on American literature and book culture. He is president of the Society of Early Americanists, editor of *Early American Literature*, and author of *Civil Tongues and Polite Letters in British America* and many other works, among them the section “18th-Century Literature Culture” in *The History of the Book in America*. He teaches at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. (2000)

MARY GAY SHIPLEY is the owner of The Bookrack, in Blytheville, Arkansas. She has been secretary of the American Booksellers Association and a director of the Mid-South Booksellers Association. (1993, 1994, 1995)

ALEDA SHIRLEY (1955-2008), a poet, teaches at the University of Mississippi. She won the Poetry Society of America’s Award for *Chinese Architecture* and the St. Louis Poetry Center’s 1992 Stanley Hanks Chapbook Competition for *Silver Ending*. Her work has also been widely published in various reviews and magazines. (1996)

JACK SHOEMAKER is founder and editor in chief of Counterpoint Press in Washington, D.C. He began his literary career as a bookseller in 1963 in Santa Barbara, California, and since then has owned or managed several important bookshops and been the publisher at several small presses. In 1979 he founded North Point Press, which published almost four hundred titles and garnered nearly every literary and design award available in this country. Before founding Counterpoint Press in 1995, Shoemaker was West Coast editor of Pantheon Books. (1999)

ELISABETH SIFTON is senior vice president of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, and publisher of Hill and Wang. She began her career in publishing at Frederick A. Praeger in 1962 and, in 1968, became an editor at Viking Press where she was subsequently editor in chief, publisher of Elisabeth Sifton Books, and vice president of Viking Penguin. From 1987 to 1992, she was executive vice president of Alfred A. Knopf. Among her many notable authors are Philip Gourevitch, Allan Gurganus, Peter Matthiessen, and Geoffrey Wolff. (1999)

CHARLES SIMIC is the author of 11 books of poetry, including *Hotel Insomnia* and *World Doesn't End*, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. Among other honors, he has received the PEN Translation Prize. He is a professor of English at the University of New Hampshire. (1994)

MARGARET SKINNER is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, which serves as a setting for both her novels, *Old Jim Canaan* and *Molly Flanagan and the Holy Ghost*. Her work has appeared in *Memphis* magazine, *River City*, and the *Atlantic Review*. She teaches creative writing at the University of Memphis. (1995)

THOMAS P. SLAUGHTER is the author of *The Natures of John and William Bartram* and editor of *William Bartram: Travels and Others Writings*. He is professor of history at Rutgers University. (1998)

CAROL HOUCK SMITH is an editor at W. W. Norton. She has edited the works of Andrea Barrett and Brady Udall, among others. (2002)

DAVE SMITH is Boyd Professor of English and coeditor of the *Southern Review* at Louisiana State University. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, fiction, and criticism. His most recent book is *The Wick of Memory: New and Selected Poems, 1970-2000*. He has won fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lyndhurst Foundation. (2001)

JULIE SMITH is the highly acclaimed author of more than a dozen mystery novels, including the popular Skip Langdon series set in New Orleans. Her 1990 novel in the series, *New Orleans Mourning*, won the Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America. Her most recent book is *82 Desire*. A 1965 graduate of the University of Mississippi, she has been a reporter for the *Times-Picayune* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. (1999)

NAT SOBEL founded Sobel Weber Associates, a literary agency, in 1970. He is a former bookseller, publisher's sales representative, marketing director, and subsidiary rights agent. He holds a BA in English from City College of New York. Among his clients are Tom Franklin, James Ellroy, Robert Jordan, and Richard Russo. (2002)

ELIZABETH SPENCER is the author of *The Light in the Piazza and Other Italian Tales* and *The Voice at the Back Door*, among others. The native Mississippian's most recent work is a memoir, *Landscapes of the Heart*. (1998)

DON STANFORD is the owner and developer of Author's Interface, the first online site devoted exclusively to providing a manuscript database of prospective authors for publishers and agents. He lives and works in Oxford, Mississippi. (1999)

DARCEY STEINKE is the author of *Suicide Blonde* and two other novels, each of which was listed as a *New York Times* Notable Book: *Up Through the Water* and *Jesus Saves*. She has edited a collection of essays, *Joyful Noise: The New Testament Revisited*, and her journalism has appeared in *Spin*, *George*, *Artform*, and the *Village Voice*. She was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1998-1999. (1999, 2000, 2002)

INA STERN is marketing director at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. (1993)

CATHY STEWART, while teaching at Lafayette County Elementary School, coedited *Books We Can't Resist*, a collection of book reviews written by young children. She currently teaches at the University of Mississippi. (1993, 1994)

JERRY E. STRAHAN studied history at the University of New Orleans before becoming a manager of Lucky Dogs, Inc. His book *Managing Ignatius: The Lunacy of Lucky Dogs and Life in the Quarter* was recently published by Louisiana State University Press. (1998)

WILLIAM STYRON is the author of many novels, including *Lie Down in Darkness*, which won the *Prix de Rome* of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, winner of the 1968 Pulitzer Prize; and *Sophie's Choice*, winner of the American Book Award in 1980. One of his recent works is *A Tidewater Morning: Tales of Youth*. In 1995 he received the National Arts Club's Medal of Honor for Literature. (1993)

NAN A. TALESE is a senior vice president of Doubleday and president, publisher, and editorial director of that company's imprint, Nan A. Talese. She is the publisher of Pat Conroy, Robert MacNeil, Mary Morris, and Mark Richard, among others. Titles she has recently published include *Good Bones* by Margaret Atwood, *Women and Ghosts* by Alison Lurie, *Beach Music* by Pat Conroy, and *A River Town* by Thomas Keneally. (1995)

AMY TAN is the author of *The Joy Luck Club*, an international bestselling novel that explores the relationships of Chinese women and their Chinese American daughters. Winner of the National Book Award and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in 1989, the novel has been translated in 25 languages and made into a major motion picture. She is also the author of *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Hundred Secret Senses*, and two children's books. Her new novel, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, was published in February 2001. (2001)

OREN TEICHER is president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and government affairs director of the American Booksellers Association. (1993)

BARBARA BONDS THOMAS, a former teacher, lives in Austin, Texas, where she owns the famous bookstore for children, Toad Hall. She is a former president of the American Booksellers Association. (1998)

CECELIA TICHI is professor of English at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *High Lonesome: The American Culture of Country Music* and the editor of *Readin' Country Music: Steel Guitars, Opry Stars, and Honky Tonk Bars*, a special issue of the *South Atlantic Quarterly*. (1999)

KAREN TILLER is director of Opera Memphis. (1994)

NATASHA TRETHERWEY received the Grolier Poetry Prize and the Margaret Walker Award for Poetry for her poem "Storyville Diary." Her first poetry collection, *Domestic Work*, published by Graywolf Press, received the 1999 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the 2001 Lillian Smith Book Award for Poetry, and a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award. Her second collection, *Belloq's Ophelia*, is forthcoming from Graywolf Press this spring. A native of Gulfport, Mississippi, she earned an MA in poetry from Hollins University and an MFA in poetry from the University of Massachusetts. She is a member of the creative writing faculty at Emory University. (2002)

WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE is Distinguished University Professor at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Missouri, where he lives with his wife, Sue. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, the *Georgia Review*, and many other publications. He is the author of several collections of poetry, including *The Book of Kong*, *Enter Dark Stranger*, and *0 Paradise*. His latest is *Flickers*. He is coeditor of the *Laurel Review*, one of the Midwest's leading literary journals, and currently serves as an editor of the *Georgia Review*. (2002)

STEPHEN TUCKER earned a Ph.D. in history from Tulane University, writing a dissertation titled "'Louisiana Saturday Night': A History of Louisiana Country Music." Among his publications are journal articles on country music. He is a longtime teacher in the New Orleans schools. (1999)

BRADY UDALL is the author of the much-acclaimed story collection *Letting Loose the Hounds*. His first novel, *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint*, was met with critical acclaim after its release in 2001. Born and raised in Arizona, he is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, a James Michener Fellow, and a winner of the *Playboy* fiction contest. His stories have been published in *GQ*, *Story*, and the *Paris Review*, among others. He lives in Illinois with his wife and two sons. (2002)

JOSEPH URGO chairs the English Department at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Willa Cather and the Myth of American Migration*, *Faulkner's Apocrypha: A Fable, Snopes and the Spirit of Human Rebellion*, and *In the Age of Distraction*. (2001, 2002)

NANCY VAN LAAN is the author of *Possum Come a Knockin'* a 1990 Parents' Choice Award winner and best-selling picture book, and other works, including the recently published *With a Whoop and a Holler – A Bushel of Lore from Way Down South*. She was born in Louisiana and now lives in Pennsylvania. (1998)

THE VELVETONES is one of Oxford's toe-tapping, hip-shaking, heinie-wiggling indigenous sounds, consisting of vocalist C. C. McGee and her "Velvettes," Becky and Sandy Hilliard, Johnny Miles on harp and guitar, Wendall Haag on guitar, Keith Perler on bass, Avery Dunn on percussion, Blaine Pitzer on keyboard, and the "Velvelips," Jeff Calloway and Jerry Williams on horn. The Velvetones play a mix of gospel-tinged soul and rhythm & blues.

LEN VLAHOS is the American Bookseller Association's industry relations manager, serving as liaison between bookstores and the book industry, including publishers, wholesalers, and other book trade associations. He has written a series of articles on various aspects of the book business for *Bookselling This Week* and is developing the BookWeb Project, an effort to provide access to the Internet for America's booksellers. In his pre-book life, Vlahos was guitarist/songwriter for a rock 'n' roll band-The Woofing Cookies. (1995)

PAULA VOGEL won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and numerous other awards for her play *How I Learned to Drive*. It and her newest play, *The Mineola Twins*, were recently published as the anthology *The Mammary Plays*. *The Baltimore Waltz*, winner of the Obie for Best Play in 1993, was published in a 1996 anthology with her plays *Hot and Throbbing*, *Desdemona*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, and *The Oldest Profession*. She is currently working on screenplays, the novel *Travels without Charley*, and a new play. (2002)

ROBERT VON HALLBERG is chair of the Department of German and a professor in the Department of English at the University of Chicago. He is founding editor of the University of Chicago Phoenix Poets series and the author of *American Poetry and Culture, 1945-1980. Literary Intellectuals and the Dissolution of the State* (1996), a collection of his interviews with more than two dozen writers and literary scholars from East Germany, concludes with an essay that warns against the domination of American literary criticism by academic critics. (1996)

C. THOMPSON WACASTER is vice president of the Phil Hardin Foundation in Meridian, Mississippi. Through his leadership, the Hardin Foundation contributed funds to provide each

high school in Mississippi a copy of two new education resources published by the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives: *The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson* and *Our Mothers Before Us*. (2001)

GEORGE F. WALKER is founder of Delta Wire Corporation, Clarksdale, Mississippi, and president of Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, Coahoma County Manufacturer's Association, and WWW Corporation. He is chairman of the Mississippi State Board of Community and Junior Colleges and the Delta Council Development Board. (1999)

ANTHONY WALTON is a poet, memoirist, and journalists. His book *Mississippi: An American Journey* describes his travels through the state where his parents came – and escaped – from. He grew up in Aurora, Illinois, studied at Notre Dame and Brown University, and currently lives in Brunswick, Maine. (2000)

BRIAN WARD teaches American history at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. He is the author of *The Making of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement*, *Just My Soul Responding: Rhythm and Blues, Black Consciousness, and Race Relations*, and the forthcoming *You Can't Segregate the Airwaves: Black Radio and the Freedom Struggle, 1923-1975*. (2000)

JERRY W. WARD JR., a prominent literary scholar and poet, is Lawrence Durgin Professor of Literature at Tougaloo College. His essays have appeared in *Southern Quarterly*, *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*, *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, and numerous other publications. He is editor of *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of African American Poetry*, coeditor of *Redefining American Literacy History* and *Black Southern Voices*, and author of *Richard Wright: "Black Boy": A Teacher's Guide* and an essay in *Approaches to Teaching Wright's "Native Son."* (2001)

JAY WATSON, associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he specializes in 20th-Century literature. He is the author of *Forensic Fictions: The Lawyer Figure in Faulkner* and scholarly articles on Southern literature, psychoanalytical theory, and law and literature. He is also the coeditor of *Journal x: A Journal in Culture and Criticism*. (2000)

WENDY WEIL has been a literary agent for 25 years, representing such writers as Fannie Flagg, Judith Rossner, James Fallows, and Rita Mae Brown. Winner of the Maitrix Award, she owns Wendy Weil Agency in New York City. (1994)

CRAIG WERNER, professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin, is the author of *A Change Is Gonna Come: Music, Race, and the Soul of America* and *Playing the Changes: From Afro-Modernism to the Jazz Impulse*. (2000)

JENNIFER WESTBROOK is director of chapter programs for Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, and coordinator of the organization's participation in the America Reads Challenge. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Mississippi. (1999)

DAVID WHARTON is the author of *The Soul of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History from McDade*. He is assistant professor of Southern Studies and director of Documentary Projects at the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study

of Southern Culture. (2000)

MARY WHEELING is assistant professor of English and director of the annual Southern Writers' Symposium at Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She is the author of *Fighting the Current: The Life and Work of Evelyn Scott*. (1999)

BAILEY WHITE teaches elementary school in Georgia and is a regular commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Her first book, the runaway *New York Times* bestseller *Mama Makes Up Her Mind and Other Dangers of Southern Living*, was followed by a second bestseller, *Sleeping at the Starlite Motel and Other Adventures on the Way Back Home*. Bailey White is currently working on a novel. (1996)

HENRY WIENCEK spent seven years collecting oral histories in North Carolina, Virginia, and Mississippi for his book *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White*. Among his other publications are two books on Southern architecture, several books for Time-Life, and articles in *American Heritage* and *Smithsonian* magazine. He lives in Virginia. (1999)

JAMES WILCOX is the author of *Modern Baptists* and other novels, the most recent being *Plain and Normal*. He is John and Renée Grisham Visiting Southern Writer at Mississippi State University. (1999)

CURTIS WILKIE was a reporter for the *Clarksdale Press Register* in his home state of Mississippi during the 1960s and then served as a national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for twenty-six years. He is coauthor, Jim McDougal, of *Arkansas Mischief: The Birth of a National Scandal* and has written for many national magazines, including *Newsweek* and the *New Republic*. His book *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events that Shaped the Modern South* recently appeared. He is a visiting professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi. (2000, 2002)

CLAUDE WILKINSON, an accomplished literary critic and poet, is a recipient of the 2000 Whiting Writers' Award. His first poetry collection, *Reading the Earth*, was published by Michigan State University Press to national acclaim. He was 2000-2001 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi, his alma mater. He lives and writes, and paints in Nesbit, Mississippi. (2000, 2001, 2002)

AMY WILLIAMS has worked as a literary agent at the Gernert Company since its inception in January 1996. She has worked selling foreign, first serial, and audio rights as well as negotiating contracts for the agency. She primarily represents fiction writers, including William Gay, Ana Menendez, Marc Nesbitt, Olympia Vernon, Steve Almond, and Karen Essex. (2000, 2001)

DAN WILLIAMS, a scholar in the field of Colonial American literature, is the author of *Pillars of Salt*. He teaches in the English Department at the University of Mississippi. (1999, 2000)

SUSAN MILLAR WILLIAMS, an independent scholar, is the author of *A Devil and a Good Woman, Too: The Lives of Julia Peterkin*. (1999)

CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and professor of history and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause* and *Judgement and*

Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis. (1993, 1998, 2000, 2001)

WILLIAM F. WINTER, Governor of Mississippi from 1980 to 1984, is a senior partner in the Jackson law firm Watkins Ludlam & Stennis. He is a founding member of the Southern Literacy Forum, founding chairman of the Foundation for the Mid-South, and chairman of the Commission on the Future of the South. He has served as chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, Southern Growth Policies Board, and Appalachian Regional Commission, as well as president of the Mississippi Historical Society. He is the contributing author to three books – *History of Mississippi*, *Yesterday's Constitution Today*, and *Mississippi Heroes* – and has served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History since 1969. (1996, 2000)

GEOFFREY WOLFF is the author of *The Duke of Deception: Memories of My Father*. He has also written a biography of Harry Crosby (*Black Sun*), as well as six novels: *Bad Debts*, *The Sightseer*, *Inklings*, *Providence*, *The Final Club*, and *Age of Consent*. (1995)

CHARLES WOLFE (1943-2006) is the author of *Tennessee Strings: The Story of Country Music in Tennessee*, *Kentucky Country: Folk and Country Music of Kentucky*, and, with Kip Lornell, *The Life and Legend of Leadbelly*. He teaches in the English Department at Middle Tennessee State University. (1999)

DANIEL WOODRELL, an Ozark native, is the author of five acclaimed novels, including *Under the Bright Lights* and *Give Us a Kiss*. In 1998 Henry Holt and Company will publish his novel *Tomato Red: A Country Noir*. (1998)

STEVE YARBROUGH is the author of three collections of stories – *Family Men*, *Mississippi History*, and *Veneer* – and two novels, *The Oxygen Man*, and *Visible Spirits*. He was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1999-2000 and teaches at California State University, Fresno. (2000, 2002)

WEBSTER YOUNCE is an editor at Arcade Publishing in New York. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, he earned a B.A. in history and English from the University of Mississippi and an M. Phil. in English from the University of Oxford. His journalism has appeared in *Harper's*, *Time Out New York*, and *Beliefnet.com* Formerly of Random House and Alfred A. Knopf, he has worked with Fred Anderson, Nathan Englander, Barry Gifford, and Charles Royster, among others. (2001)

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