

Oxford Conference for the Book Participants, 2003–2012

JEFFREY RENARD ALLEN is the author of two collections of poetry, *Stellar Places* and *Harbors and Saints*, and a novel, *Rails Under My Back*, which won the *Chicago Tribune's* Heartland Prize for Fiction. He has also published essays, poems, and short stories in numerous publications and is currently completing his second novel, *Song of the Shank*, based on the life of Thomas Greene Wiggins, a 19th-century African American piano virtuoso and composer who performed under the stage name Blind Tom. Allen is an associate professor of English at Queens College of the City University of New York and an instructor in the MFA writing program at New School University. (2008)

STEVE ALMOND is the author of the story collections *My Life in Heavy Metal* and *The Evil B. B. Chow and Other Stories*, as well as the nonfiction work *Candyfreak*. Almond has published stories and poems in such publications as *Playboy*, *Tin House*, and *Zoetrope: All-Story*; and many have been anthologized. He is a regular commentator on the NPR affiliate WBUR in Boston and teaches creative writing at Boston College. (2005)

STEVEN AMSTERDAM is the author of *Things We Didn't See Coming*, a debut collection of stories published to rave reviews in February 2009. Amsterdam, a native New Yorker, moved to Melbourne, Australia, in 2003, where he is employed as a psychiatric nurse and is writing his second book. (2010)

BILL ANDERSON is the second child and older son of Walter Anderson and his wife, Agnes Grinstead Anderson. A lover of the outdoors, he owned and operated Bayou Sporting Goods for many years in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where he has lived all his life. Now retired, he is an avid birdwatcher. (2009)

BRETT ANDERSON, editor of *Cornbread Nation 6: The Best of Southern Food Writing*, is the restaurant critic and a features writer for *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. His writing has appeared in a variety of national publications, including *Gourmet*, *The Washington Post*, *Food & Wine*, *Salon*, and the *Oxford American*, and been anthologized in seven editions of *Best Food Writing* and four of *Cornbread Nation*. He has won two James Beard Foundation Awards and was a member of *The Times-Picayune* staff awarded the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. (2012)

JOHN ANDERSON, the youngest child of second son of Walter Anderson and his wife, Agnes Grinstead Anderson, oversees the Anderson family's collection of artworks, the Realization shop in Ocean Springs, and other related projects, including the conservation of works damaged by Hurricane Katrina. He is curator of the *Walter Anderson and World Literature* exhibition, making its premier at the 2009 Oxford Conference for the Book. (2009)

LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON is the author of American Girl's new animal adventure series, *Wild at Heart*. She is perhaps best known for her novel *Speak*, which was a National Book Award Finalist, a Michael L. Printz Honor book, a *New York Times* best-seller, and an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults. Anderson has also published four other novels—*Fever 1793*, *Catalyst*, *Prom* and *Twisted*—and five picture books, including *No Time for Mother's Day* and *Turkey Pox*. (2007)

LEIF ANDERSON, Walter Anderson's younger daughter, is a dancer and teacher who also sculpts, paints, writes, and composes music. Her book *Dancing with My Father* is both a loving tribute to Walter Anderson and an honest look at the effects he has had upon her personal life and her artistry. (2009)

JAY ASHER worked at an independent bookstore, an outlet bookstore, a chain bookstore, and two public libraries before writing his popular debut novel for young adults, *Thirteen Reasons Why*. He has written several picture books and is working on a second novel for teens. (2009)

ACE ATKINS, former crime reporter for the *Tampa Tribune* and author of *Crossroad Blues*, *Leavin' Trunk Blues*, and *Dark End o/ the Street*, 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. (2003)

HELENE ATWAN has been director of Beacon Press, the nation's oldest nonprofit independent, since 1995. She began her career in publishing at Alfred A. Knopf and has worked at Viking Press, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, and Simon & Schuster's Pocket Books. Her acquisitions at Beacon include Gayle Jones's *The Healing*, a National Book Award Finalist; Elaine Brown's *The Condemnation of Little B*; Sindiwe Magona's *Mother to Mother*; Sudha Kohl's *The Tiger Ladies*; Lillian Faderman's *I Begin My Life All Over*; and DeWitt Henry and James Alan McPherson's *Fathering Daughters*. She has served on the board of the National Coalition against Censorship and is currently chair of PEN-New England. Atwan has lectured on publishing at New York University and Radcliff College. (2003)

KEN AULETTA has written the Annals of Communications columns and profiles for the *New Yorker* magazine since 1992. He is the author of eleven books, including five national bestsellers: *Three Blind Mice: How the TV Networks Lost Their Way*; *Greed And Glory On Wall Street: The Fall of the House of Lehman*; *The Highwayman: Warriors of the Information Super Highway*; *World War 3.0: Microsoft and Its Enemies*; and *Googled, The End of the World As We Know It*, which was published in November of 2009. (2012)

JOHN BAILEY is an attorney and author from Australia. His fourth book, *The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of the Slave Sally Miller and Her Flight for Freedom*, portrays a sensational trial that took place in pre-Civil War New Orleans. Bailey spent two years researching the book, making several journeys to Louisiana and one to Germany. His previous book, *The White Diver of Broome*, won the New South Wales Premier's Award for History and the Australian Premier's Literary Award for Nonfiction. (2005)

CALVIN BAKER, born in Chicago and a graduate of Amherst College, has worked in theater and in journalism, as a newspaper reporter and a staff writer for *People Magazine*. His first novel, *Naming the New World*, was described by *Publishers Weekly* as a "brilliant debut." His newly published second novel, *One Two Heroes*, examines the aftermath of World War II in America through the story of a black man who grew up in France and a white man from a genteel Mississippi family. (2003)

CLAIBORNE BARKSDALE is executive director of the Barksdale Reading Institute at the University of Mississippi. After earning BA and JD 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. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

T. A. BARRON is the author of five novels in *The Lost Years of Merlin* series; *The Heroic Ventures of Kate* trilogy; two novels in his new *Great Tree of Avalon* trilogy; *Tree Girl*, an adventure story for young children; the autobiographical *Where Is Grandpa?* and another picture book; two nature books; and *The Hero's Trail: A Guide for a Heroic Life*. His highly acclaimed work has garnered numerous awards, including the American Library Association's "Best Books" and the International Reading Association's "Teachers' Choice" designations. After receiving degrees from Princeton, Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and Harvard, Barron was a venture capitalist in New York City for eight years. In 1990 he moved to Colorado and became a full-time writer and conservationist. (2006)

NICHOLAS A. BASBANES is the author of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* and six other volumes that have established him as the leading authority of books about books. His eighth book is a cultural history of paper and papermaking, tentatively titled *Common Bond*, to be published this year. With his wife, Constance Basbanes, he writes a monthly review of children's books for Literacy Features Syndicate, which they established in 1993. (2010)

RICK BASS was born in Texas and lived in Mississippi from 1979 to 1987 as a petroleum geologist, an experience that formed the basis for his book *Oil Notes*. He is the author of twenty-one other books, including *The Watch*, his first story collection, winner of the PEN/Nelson Algren Award, and a second collection, *The Hermit's Story*, a *Los Angeles Times* Best Book of the Year. Among his other awards are the Pushcart Prize and the O. Henry Award. He currently lives and works in Montana's Yaak Valley. (2007)

MICHAEL BIBLE is the author of *Cowboy Maloney's Electric City* and *Simple Machines*. His work is published in *The Oxford American*, *ESPN: The Magazine*, *New York Tyrant*, *Salt Hill* and others. He blogs at *Bulk Culture* and has an MFA from the University of Mississippi. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi and edits the literary magazine *Kitty Snacks*. (2012)

EMILY BINGHAM is an independent scholar living in Louisville, Kentucky. She recently published her first book, *Mordecai*, a multigenerational history of a Jewish family who settled in the South during America's first century. She also edited, with Thomas A. Underwood, *The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal: Essays after "I'll Take My Stand."* (2003)

SALLIE BINGHAM is an author, playwright, poet, and feminist activist. She is the author of *Passion and Prejudice: A Family Memoir*, her account of the breakup of her family's media empire in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as two collections of short stories, five novels, and more than a dozen plays. She was the book editor for the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and has been a director of the National Book Critics Circle. Bingham has also founded several organizations devoted to the work of women artists, including the Sallie Bingham Archives for Women's Papers at Duke University. (2008)

SVEN BIRKERTS is the author of *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age* and seven other books, including *The Art of Time in Memoir: Then, Again*. He writes for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Washington Post*. He is the director of the Bennington College Writing Seminars in Vermont and the editor of the literary journal *Agni*, published at Boston University. (2011)

TOM BISSELL, formerly an editor at Henry Holt and Company, is the author of *Chasing the Sea: Lost Among the Ghosts of Empire in Central Asia*. Drawing on extensive research and his travels in Uzbekistan as a Peace Corps volunteer in the mid-1990s, the author narrates the historical, political, and economic conditions that created the world's largest manmade environmental disaster. Bissell's criticism, fiction, and journalism have appeared in *Harper's*, *Men's Journal*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, and *Best American Travel Writing 2003*. (2004)

PATTI CARR BLACK is the author of *Art in Mississippi, 1720-1980*, the first comprehensive study of art in the state. She has written and edited many other books dealing with Mississippi art and letters, including Agnes Grinstead Anderson's *Approaching the Magic Hour: Memories of Walter Anderson*, *Made by Hand: Mississippi Folk Art, Documentary Photographs of Mississippi during the 1930s*, *Sea, Earth, Sky: The Art of Walter Anderson*, *Eudora Welty's World*, and *Eudora Welty: Early Escapades*. (2006, 2009)

ROY BLOUNT, JR. is one of America's best-known humorists. He is the author of seventeen books, including *Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor*, the memoir *Be Sweet: A Conditional Love Story*, and biography of Robert E. Lee. His essays, articles, stories, verses, and drawings have appeared in 160 different periodicals, among them the *New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *Vanity Fair*, *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vogue*, *Organic Gardening*, and in 160 books, including *The Best of Modern Humor*, *The Ultimate Baseball Book*, and *The Elvis Reader*. He lives in Western Massachusetts and Manhattan. (2004)

DANIEL BORN is the vice president for postsecondary programs and editor of the *Common Review* at the Great Books Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization that promotes reading and discussion of outstanding literature by people of all ages. Born oversees roughly 850 literature discussion groups in the US and abroad as well as Great Books' higher-education initiatives. (2008)

MARSHALL BOSWELL grew up in Memphis and has moved back there to teach 20th-century literature and fiction writing at Rhodes College. He received his PhD from Emory University and has published short stories in a range of magazines, from *Missouri Review* to *Playboy*. *Trouble with Girls*, a collection of linked stories recently published by Algonquin Books, is his first book. (2003)

JOHN BRANDON is the 2009-2010 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. During the writing of his debut novel, *Arkansas*, published in 2009, he worked at a lumber mill, a windshield warehouse, a Coca-Cola distributor, and several small factories that produce goods made of rubber and plastic. (2010)

ELISE BROACH is the author of twelve books for children, ranging from board books to young adult novels. Her middle-grade mystery *Masterpiece* was a *New York Times* bestseller, and her picture book *When Dinosaurs Came with Everything*, illustrated by David Small, won the E. B. White Read Aloud Award. The first book in her new mystery trilogy, *Missing on Superstition Mountain*, was selected as both a Publishers Weekly and an Amazon Best Books of the Year for 2011. (2012)

KEVIN BROCKMEIER is the author of the novels *The Brief History of the Dead* and *The Truth About Celia*, the collections of stories *Things That Fell from the Sky* and *The View from the Seventh Layer*, and the children's novels *City of Names* and *Grooves: A King of Mystery*. He has received the *Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Award, an Italo Calvino Short Fiction Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts grant. He lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. (2008, 2011)

BILLY RAY BROWN, the eldest son of author Larry Brown, works for the City of Oxford and raises cattle in Yocona, Mississippi, where he lives with his wife and three children. (2007)

HARRY C. "JOE" BROWN is a Jackson musician and Barry Hannah's friend since childhood. They attended junior and senior high school and Mississippi College together. In a 1996 essay about *Geronimo Rex*, Brown wrote: "I even forgave Barry for becoming famous and for giving my character a really queer name. I now had my first inkling that growing up had really been about something...that Horace and Wyatt and Patterson and Wiley and I and the rest hadn't wasted our time. Our lives had been intersected by fiction...Hell, we were *Literature!*" (2010)

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

NICKOLE BROWN is a poet and fiction writer. Her poems, stories, and essays have most recently appeared in Mammoth Books' *Sudden Stories*, anthology, *Poets & Writers*, the *Writer's Chronicle*, *Kestrel Review*, *32 Poems*, the *Courtland Review*, and Starcherone Books' *PP/FF* anthology. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is director of marketing and development for Sarabande Books. (2006, 2007)

SHANE BROWN, Larry Brown's younger son, is a teacher at Water Valley Elementary School and a coach at Water Valley High School in Water Valley, Mississippi. He lives with his wife and son in Lafayette County. (2007)

BLISS BROYARD is the author of the collection of stories *My Father, Dancing* (1999), a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and the memoir/family history *One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life – A Story of Race and Family Secrets* (2007). Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize, Anthology*, and *The Art of the Essay*, and she is a frequent contributor to *Elle* magazine and the *New York Times Book Review*. Broyard lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and daughter. (2010)

KAY BONETTI CALLISON is founder of the American Audio Prose Library, Inc., and winner of eight national spoken audio awards. As director of the American Radio Prose Library, Callison produced recorded reading performances and companion interviews with 132 distinguished authors as well as fifty-five related audio programs for local broadcast and national public radio distribution. Her interviews were edited for publication in the *Missouri Review*, and fifteen are collected in the volume *Conversations with American Novelists*. (2007)

KEVIN CANTY is the award-winning author of the novels *Into the Great Wide Open*, *Nine Below Zero*, and *Winslow in Love*, as well as the short-story collections *Honeymoon and Other Stories* and *A Stranger in This World*. (2007)

DAN T. CARTER is Educational Foundation University Professor at the University of South Carolina and former president of the Southern Historical Association. He is the author of *Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South*, *When the War Was Over: The Failure of Self-Reconstruction in the South, 1865-1867*, *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*, and *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994*, all of which have won top history and literary awards. (2004)

HODDING CARTER III grew up in Greenville, Mississippi, where he later worked as a reporter, managing editor, and associate publisher for his father's newspaper, the *Delta Democrat-Times*. He is currently University Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *The Reagan Years* and *The South Strikes Back* and has contributed to nine other books and numerous magazines and newspapers. (2009)

ALICIA CASEY holds an MA in English from Austin Peay State University and currently is completing her MFA in Poetry as a John and Renée Grisham fellow at the University of Mississippi. She serves as the managing editor for the *Yalobusha Review*, and her work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Rattle*, *Zone 3*, *Sotto Voce*, and *Hot Metal Bridge*. (2009)

JEAN W. CASH, professor of English at James Madison University, is the author of *Flannery O'Connor: A Life* and of articles on O'Connor, William Styron, and others. She is currently working on a biography of Larry Brown. (2007)

ERIN D. CHAPMAN is assistant professor of history and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is currently revisiting her manuscript, *Prove It on Me: Gender, Popular Culture, and Politics in the New Negro Era*, a study of the new urban racial order that emerged in the wake of the Great Migration and set the course for racial politics in the 20th century. (2008)

ANASTASIA CHEKHOVKAYA is a writer and journalist. Born in 1981, she currently lives in Ulyanovsk, a town on the Volga River. She graduated from the Department of Philology of the Ulyanovsk State University. Chekhovskaya is the author of ironic and sentimental stories that deal with social issues and feature ordinary people. She is also a scriptwriter for soap operas and writes for regional and federal newspapers and magazines covering youth issues, education, and culture. (2007)

VASILY CHEPELEV is a poet, fiction writer, translator, literary critic, and literary curator. Author of *Sverdlovsk Love* (a 2008 collection of poems) and two other recent collections published in the journal *Vozdukh* (Oxygen), he has also worked as a journalist, hospital orderly, nurse, pediatrician, a medical representative, and a brand manager, and is currently the creative director of the Ekaterinburg-based KB-32, a communications agency specializing in marketing technologies. (2008)

SUSAN CHOI is the author of two novels: *The Foreign Student*, winner of the Asian American Literary Award and the Steven Turner Award for first fiction in 1999, and *American Woman*, a *New York Times* Notable Book and finalist for the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award and for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. Her newest book is the novel *A Person of Interest*. With David Remnick, she edited *Wonderful Town*, an anthology of New York stories from the *New Yorker*. (2008)

EMILY CLARK is an associate professor of history at Tulane University. She specializes in early American history and is the author of *Masterless Mistresses: The New Orleans Ursulines and the*

Development of a New World Society, 1727-1834 and editor of *Voices from an Early American Convent: Marie Madeline Hachard and the New Orleans Ursulines, 1727-1760*. She is currently writing about the impact of Katrina on New Orleans. (2009)

RICK CLEVELAND has been writing about sports for forty-three years at the *Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the author of three books: *It's More Than a Game*, a collection of his newspaper articles; *Vaught: The Man and His Legacy*, about the legendary University of Mississippi football coach Johnny Vaught; and *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well-Lived*, about the life of David "Boo" Ferriss and his impact on the sport. (2011)

JOHN Y. COLE is the director for 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 fifty 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. (2005)

GAIL COLLINS is the editorial page editor of the *New York Times*. Before joining the *Times*, in 1999, she had been a columnist for *New York Newsday* and at the *New York Daily News*. She is the author of *America's Women: Four Hundred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines* and *Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity, and American Politics*. With her husband, Dan Collins, she wrote *The Millennium Book*. (2004)

SARAH COMBS is the assistant director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington, Kentucky. She previously worked as a librarian, as a Latin and creative writing teacher, and as a library specialist in the Collection Development Department of BWI, a book and audiovisual distributor that specializes in children's and young-adult literature for public libraries. (2006, 2007)

NICOLE COOLEY grew up in New Orleans and is the author most recently of two collections of poems, *Breach* and *Milk Dress*. She has also published two other collections of poems and a novel. She has received the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, the Emily Dickinson Award from the Poetry Society of America, and a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *American Poet*, and *Callaloo*, among other journals. She directs the new MFA Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College-City University of New York where she is a professor of English. She lives outside of New York City with her husband and two daughters. (2012)

RICHARD CORLEY and Larry Brown collaborated on the stage version of Brown's novel *Dirty Work*. It originally played at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., in January 1994 and has enjoyed subsequent performances, including productions at the Dallas Theater Center and at the Hoka Theater in the author's hometown. Corley is artistic director of Madison Repertory Theatre in Wisconsin and has directed at Hartford Stage, Magic Theatre in San Francisco, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Theater Company, and the Sovremennik Theatre in Moscow.

ALLIE CONDIE, a teacher who lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and three sons, wrote five novels for young readers published by small Utah companies before Penguin featured her book *Matched* at BookExpo America 2010. *Matched* has become immensely popular since its release in November. Condie's earlier titles are *Yearbook*, *First Day*, *Reunion*, *Freshman for President*, and *Being Sixteen*.

HARRY CREWS is the author of twenty-three books, including *The Gospel Singer*, *Naked in Garden Hills*, *The Hawk is Dying*, *A Feast of Snakes*, *A Childhood: The Biography of a Place*, *Blood and Grits*, *All We Need of Hell*, *The Knockout Artist*, *The Mulching of America*, *Celebration*, and *An American Family: The Baby with the Curious Markings*. *Getting Naked with Harry Crews* is a collection of twenty-six interviews with Crews from the publication of his first novel in 1968 to his retirement from the University of Florida in 1997. He is featured in the documentaries *The Rough South of Harry Crews* and *Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus*. (2007)

CONSTANCE CURRY is an activist, attorney, and fellow in Women's Studies at Emory University. She has written or collaborated on several books about the civil rights movement, including *Deep in Our Hearts*, *Aaron Henty*, and *Silver Rights*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award in 1996. Most recently, she and Winson Hudson, of Leake County, Mississippi, collaborated on *Mississippi Harmony: Memoirs of a Freedom Fighter*. (2003)

CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS made an outstanding debut in children's literature with *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*, winner of the Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor Book Awards. His second novel, *Bud, Not Buddy*, is the first book ever to receive both the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Award. His other titles are *Bucking the Sarge*, *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*, *Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission* and *Elijah of Buxton*. (2008)

DMITRY DANILOV is a Moscow-based fiction writer and journalist, author of *The Black and the Green*, *Building Ten*, and stories published in journals, yearbooks, and on the Internet. He is a member of the literary and art group "Osumbez" since its founding in 2002 and the Back to the Cybersoil movement. He works as an editor and commentator in the Urgent section of *Russian Life* magazine. (2008)

JAMES DASHNER is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *The Maze Runner* series and the prequel novel, *The Kill Order*, which will be published in August 2012. Born and raised in Georgia, James now resides with his family in the Rocky Mountains. He is also the author of the series *The 13th Reality*. To learn more about him and his books, visit jamesdashner.com (2012)

CHRISTINE DAVIS recently earned her MFA in poetry from the University of Mississippi and was the poetry editor for the *Yalobusha Review*. She has poems forthcoming in *Flyway* and *Fifth Wednesday* and has been a semi-finalist for *Glimmer Train's* Very Short Fiction contest. She is currently teaching English at the University of Mississippi and is working on her first poetry collection. (2008)

JASON S. DEAN lives and works in Jackson, Mississippi. He received his BA in International Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and his MA and PhD from the University of Mississippi. Before joining Governor Haley Barbour's staff as policy advisor, Dean served as visiting assistant professor in the School of Education and as the assistant dean of students at the University of Mississippi. (2004)

JIM DEES is the host for *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a literature and music program on Mississippi's public radio stations. He has written for the *Oxford Eagle* and is former editor of *Oxford Town*, for which he still contributes a weekly column. Most recently, he edited the collection *The Write Among Us: New Stories and Essays from the Best of Oxford Writers*. (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

MARGARET-LOVE DENMAN, coordinator of off-campus writing programs at the University of Mississippi, was previously the director of the creative writing program at the University of New Hampshire for twelve years. She is the author of the novels *A Scrambling After Circumstance* and *Daily, Before Your Eyes*. With novelist Barbara Shoup, she has published the interview collection *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Writers Share the Creative Process* and *Story Matters*, a writing textbook. (2009, 2010, 2011)

BILL DITENHAFFER is the former editor of *Nashville Lifestyles* magazine and has worked as a features writer, arts writer, critic and editor at weekly newspapers from Nashville, Tennessee to Warsaw, Poland. (2012)

ELLEN DOUGLAS, the pseudonym of Mississippi author Josephine Ayres Haxton, is the author of six novels, two story collections, and, most recently, two collections of nonfiction: *Truth: Four Stories I Am Finally Old Enough to Tell* and *Witnessing*. Her first novel, *A Family's Affairs*, was named one of the ten best fiction titles of the year by the *New York Times*, as was *Black Cloud, White Cloud*. She received Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Awards in literature for *The Rock Cried Out* and *A Lifetime Burning*, was honored for her body of work by the Fellowship of Southern Writers in 1989, and received the 2000 American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. (2005, 2006)

LEONARD DOWNE, JR. worked for the *Washington Post* for forty-four years, beginning as a summer intern in 1964 and rising to investigative reporter, managing editor, and finally executive editor before his retirement in 2008. During his seventeen years as editor, the newspaper won twenty-five Pulitzer Prizes. The author of four books – *Justice Denied* (1971), *Mortgage on America* (1974), *The New Muckrakers* (1976), and, with Robert G. Laiser, *The News About the News: American Journalism in Peril* (2002). He recently published his first work of fiction, *The Rules of the Game*, a thriller about an investigative reporter, his editor, and a cast of shady Washington insiders. (2009)

MICHAEL DOWNS is the author of *The Greatest Show*, stories inspired by the 1944 Hartford Circus Fire, which killed 168 people in his hometown. His first book, *House of Good Hope*, won the River Teeth Literary Nonfiction Prize. A recipient of a literary fiction fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, he lives in Baltimore, Maryland, and teaches creative writing at Towson University. (2012)

SHARON M. DRAPER, a professional educator as well as an accomplished author, has been honored as a National Teacher of the Year, is a three-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Award, and is a *New York Times* bestselling author. Her books for teens include the Hazelwood High

trilogy (*Tears of a Tiger, Forged by Fire, and Darkness Before Dawn*), *Rominette and Julio, Double Dutch*, and *The Battle of Jericho*. Her new novel, *Copper Sun*, is based on the horrible reality of the slave trade. Draper has also published *Teaching from the Heart Reflections, Encouragement, Inspiration*, another nonfiction book for teachers, and two volumes of poetry. (2006)

JENNIFER DROUIN teaches Shakespeare and Renaissance drama at the University of Alabama. She is working on a book entitled *Shakespeare in Québec: Nation, Gender, and Adaptation* and an online database entitled *Shakespeare au/ in Québec*. (2011)

JENNIFER DUBOIS was born in Northhampton, Massachusetts in 1983. She earned a BA in political science and philosophy from Tufts University and an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She recently completed a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University, where she is currently the Nancy Packer Lecturer in Continuing Studies. Her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Playboy, The Missouri Review, The Kenyon Review, The Florida Review, The Northwest Review, Narrative, ZZZZYVA*, and elsewhere. (2012)

ANDRE DUBUS III is the author of *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and the novels *Bluesman and House and Sand and Fog*, which was a finalist for the 1999 National Book Award and was made into a movie in 2003. He was one of three finalists for the 1994 Prix de Rome and has been awarded the Pushcart Prize and the 1985 National Magazine Award for Fiction. Dubus has taught writing at Harvard University, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. He and his wife, performer Fontaine Dollas Dubus, live in Massachusetts with their three children. (2007)

CAMILLE T. DUNGY is the author of *What to Eat, What to Drink, What to Leave for Poison* and coeditor of *From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great*, and editor of *Black Nature: Four Hundred Years of African American Poetry*. Her second collection of poetry, *Suck on the Marrow*, is due from Red Hen Press in 2010. Dungy is associate professor in the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University. (2009)

TONY DUNBAR is a practicing New Orleans attorney and author of *Mississippi: Our Land, Too*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award; *Against the Grain: Southern Radicals and Prophets, 1919-1959*; winner of the Louis Melcher Book Award; and, with Linda Kravitz, *Hard Traveling: Migrant Farm Workers in America*. He has also written six novels in the popular Tubby Dubonet mystery series. (2004)

WILLIAM DUNLAP has distinguished himself as an artist, arts commentator, and educator since receiving his MFA from the University of Mississippi in 1969. Recipient of such prestigious awards as the Danforth Award in the Visual Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation International Fellowship, and a grant from the Warhol Foundation, he has exhibited at, and is included in the permanent collections of, such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Roger Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and United States embassies throughout the world. In addition, Dunlap received an Emmy Award for his work as visual arts commentator of *Around Town* on WETA-TV, Washington, D. C. (2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

REBECCA EATON has been executive producer of WGBH's *Mystery!* and *Masterpiece Theatre* since 1985, during which time the two series have won numerous awards, including thirty-two Primetime and six International Emmy Awards, fourteen Peabody Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting, seventeen BAFTA Awards, a Golden Globe, and two Academy Award nominations, and have featured such high-profile series and miniseries as *David Copperfield*, *Poirot*, *House of Cards*, *Moll Flanders*, *King Lear*, *Touching Evil*, and *The Mrs. Bradley Mysteries*. Under her leadership, *Masterpiece Theatre* has also produced two feature films, *Persuasion* and *Mrs. Brown*. (2008)

JOHN T. EDGE, director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, is the author or editor of more than ten books, including the foodways volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *Cornbread Nation: The Best of Southern Food Writing*, and *Southern Belly: The Ultimate Food Lover's Companion to the South*. He also writes for a range of different publications, including the *New York Times*. (2012)

CLYDE EDGERTON is the author of eight best sellers, including *Raney*, *Walking Across Egypt*, and *Where Trouble Sleeps*. The critical reception to his work led to his receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lyndhurst Fellowship, the North Carolina Award for Literature, and five notable book awards from the *New York Times*. He is also a musician and songwriter and a professor of creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. (2007)

PAUL ELIE has been an editor at Farrar, Strauss and Giroux since 1993. His writing has appeared in *Commonweal*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere. He is the author of *The Life You Save May Be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage*, which examines the work of Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, and Walker Percy. The book nominated for a 2003 National Book Critics Circle Award. Elie is also the editor of *A Tremor of Bliss: Contemporary Writers on the Saints*, a collection of essays by seventeen authors, including Kathleen Norris, Martin Marty, and Richard Bausch. (2004, 2005)

THOMAS SAYERS ELLIS is the author of three books: *The Good Junk*, *The Genuine Negro Hero*, and *The Maverick Room*. He coedited *On the Verge: Emerging Poets and Artists* and is a contributing editor of *Callaloo*. His *Quotes Community: Notes for Black Poets* is forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press (Poets on Poetry Series). Ellis teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and the Lesley University low-residency MFA program. (2007)

WARD EMLING has served as the director of the Mississippi Film Office since 1990 and previously from 1980 to 1983. He is on the board of directors and immediate past president of the Association of Film Commissioners (AFCI). As an actor, he has appeared in *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Premonition*, *Beulah Land*, *The Mississippi*, *St. Elsewhere*, *Knot's Landing*, *Our House*, *Problem Child*, *Matlock*, and several national and regional commercials. (2006)

BARBARA EPLER grew up in Evanston, Illinois, and started working at New Directions after graduating from Harvard in 1984, and though she did not really mean to go into publishing she became extremely attached to ND. She is now the editor in chief and publisher. She has been lucky to find W. G. Sebald and Roberto Bolaño, as well as other great writers like Lazlo Krasnahorkhai, Victor Pelevin, Inger Christensen, Yoel Hoffmann, Cesar Aira, Yoko Tawada, and Javier Marías. She's also been a contributing editor to *Grand Street* and a judge for the PEN/Nelson Algren Prize, the Bobst Emerging Fiction Prize (at NYU Press), and the PEN Translation Fund Awards. (2012)

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO has been hailed as a poet, as a storyteller, and as one of the most important musicians of the last quarter-century. He blends rock, folk, blues, and classically-influenced music into a boundary-defying style that has won him a devoted following all over the world. Born into a large Mexican immigrant family in San Antonio, Escovedo has recorded eight albums under his own name, which won him numerous awards and accolades, including “Artist of the Decade” from *No Depression* magazine.

ROBBIE ETHRIDGE is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi. She is the coeditor, along with Charles Hudson, of the volume *The Transformation of the Southeastern Indians, 1540-1760* and the author of *Creek Country: The Creek Indians and Their World, 1796-1816*. Her current research focuses on the involvement of the 17th-century Chickasaws in the Indian slave trade and the modern world economy. (2007)

W. RALPH EUBANKS is the author of two books: *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past* and *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Preservation*, and National Public Radio. He has been director of publishing at the Library of Congress since 1995. (2004, 2010, 2011, 2012)

JOHN EVANS opened Lemuria Bookstore in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1975. Regarded as one of the country's best independent bookstores, it has counted Eudora Welty, Willie Morris, Walker Percy, and Ellen Gilchrist among its regular customers. (2003)

PERCIVAL EVERETT is the author of fourteen books of fiction, including *Glyph* (1999), *Frenzy* (1997), *Watershed* (1996), and *Suder* (1983). He created a storm with his 2001 novel, *Erasure*, which *Publishers Weekly* called “an over-the-top masterpiece” and *Booklist* described as “a scathingly funny look at racism and the book business, editors, publishers, readers and writers alike.” Everett is a professor of English at the University of Southern California. (2003)

BEVERLY D. FATHERREE teaches English at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. She has performed *Flannery O'Connor: In Her Own Words*, a one-woman show based on the author's prose, for the O'Connor Birthplace Foundation in Savannah, Georgia, and numerous other groups. (2005)

ELENA FANAYLOVA is a poet and journalist. Born in 1962 in Voronezh, a town in Central Russia, she is a graduate of the Voronezh Medical Institute and the Voronezh State University, where she majored in linguistics. Fanaylova has worked as a doctor and as a university teacher. Currently, she lives in Moscow and is a host of the radio program *Far from Moscow*, which covers various topics from the Beslan siege to new Russian prose. Fanaylova's poems have been published in leading literary magazines in Russia and abroad. She is the author of four books, and a book of her poetry will soon be published in the United States by Ugly Duckling Press. (2007)

JOHN ALOYSIUS FARRELL was born and raised in Huntington, New York HE graduated from the University of Virginia and embarked on a prize-winning career as a newspaperman, most notably for *The Denver Post* and the *Boston Globe*. He has covered some of every presidential campaign since 1976, reported from two wars and The Troubles in Northern Ireland. He moved to Washington for the *Globe* in 1990 and served as White House correspondent and Washington editor, among other assignments. In 2001 he published *Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*, a biography of the late Speaker of the House, and in 2011 a biography of the great American defense lawyer, *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for The Damned*. (2012)

JOYCE FARMER is the author of *Special Exits*, a 208-page graphic memoir that details the decline and death of her elderly parents and addresses caregiving issues for the elderly today. She was a pioneer of feminist underground comics with the *Tits and Clits* series, published between 1972 and 1985. Farmer's work has also appeared in *Wimmen's Comix* and other alternative publications. (2011)

CARLO FELTRINELLI operates much of the Feltrinelli literary enterprise, which consists of approximately ninety bookstores and the publishing firm began in 1954 – initially as a library and gathering place for intellectuals and anti-fascists – by his father, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. The firm, also led by Carlo's mother, Inge Feltrinelli, published the first edition of *Dr. Zhivago* and has issued over 7,000 titles, including the works of Italo Calvino, Che Guevara, Simone de Beauvoir, Italo Svevo, and Richard Ford. Carlo Feltrinelli wrote the incredible story of his father's life, published in the US in 2002 under the title *Feltrinelli: A Story of Riches, Revolution, and Violent Death*. (2007)

BETH ANN FENNELLY is the author of three poetry collections: *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*, and a book of essays, *Great with Child: Letters to a Young Mother*. Fennelly has three times been included in the Best American Poetry series and is a winner of a Pushcart Prize. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012)

RANDY FERTEL, a writer based in New York and New Orleans and the author of *The Gorilla Man and the Empress of Steak*, is president of both the Fertel Foundation and the Ruth U. LeMoyné College, the University of New Orleans and the New School for Visual Arts. He holds a PhD from Harvard where he received a teaching award by student vote. He specializes in the literature of the Vietnam War. A former manager of Ruth's Chris Steak House in New Orleans, he remembers interrupting high school homework to make emergency bread runs. He also served as Director of Marketing for the national corporation. (2012)

KATHERINE RHODES FIELDS, a native Mississippian, is an internationally collected print and book artist as well as the Instructor of Printmaking and Book Arts at the University of Mississippi. Her handmade books with prints are featured in two publications, *500 Handmade Books: Inspiring Interpretations of a Timeless Form* and *The Lark Studio Series: Handmade Books*. Katherine recently created broadside prints for the authors Jeffrey Eugenides and Adam Johnson on the occasion of their visits to Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi. Katherine's work can be found in the permanent collections of museums across the United States and in New Zealand. (2012)

ANN FISHER-WIRTH is the author of two books of poems, *Blue Window* and *Five Terraces*; two chapbooks, *The Trinket Poems* and *Walking Wu-Wei's Scroll*; and a critical book, *William Carlos Williams and Autobiography: The Woods of His Own Nature*. Among the awards she has received are a *Malabat Review* Long Poem Prize, the Rita Dove Poetry Award, and six Pushcart nominations. She is professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches a wide range of courses in poetry and in environmental literature. (2004, 2007, 2009)

GARY FISKETJON is vice president and editor at large at Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House. He has edited the works of Raymond Carver, Andre Dubus, Don DeLillo, Richard Ford, Tobias Wolff, Jay McInerney, Cormac McCarthy, Donna Tartt, Bret Easton Ellis, Steve Yarbrough, and others. He won the 2006 Maxwell E. Perkins Award, which celebrates "excellence in the field of fiction." (2004, 2007)

TAD FLORIDIS is associate publisher of Cannongate Books. Previously, he was an agent with Donadio & Olson, vice president for development at Longview Production, and executive vice president at Rightscenter.com, home of the Film Rights Directory, a comprehensive database of film/TV rights to literary properties. (2006)

PHYLLIS J. FOGELMAN, longtime children's book editor and publisher, began at Dial, then an imprint of Dutton, in 1966 as editor in chief and eventually was named president and publisher of Dial Books for Young Readers. She was given her own imprint in 1998 and retired in 2002. During her career, authors and illustrators published by Fogelman won two Newbery Medals and two Caldecott Awards. She is known as one of the first children's publishers to encourage the publishing of African American children's book, including the works of last year's Oxford Conference for the Book and Young Authors Fair speaker, Mildred D. Taylor. (2005)

SHELDON FOGELMAN began representing authors and illustrators through his law firm and did so for ten years before starting the Sheldon Fogelman Agency in 1975. At that time, most of the authors and illustrators who came through his door were already established, but the agency now regularly takes on unpublished clients. His first client was a young Maurice Sendak. Among the authors Fogelman represents are Oxford Conference for the Book speakers Mildred D. Taylor (2004) and Richard Peck (2005), both Newbery Medal recipients. (2005)

JENNIFER FORD is head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi's John D. Williams Library. She graduated with a BA in English from Millsaps College in 1993 and received her MA and MLS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997. She is currently working on a PhD in history at the University of Mississippi. (2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

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* and *The Ultimate Good Luck*, 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*, 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. (2012)

TOM FRANKLIN is a widely published author of fiction and nonfiction. He has published a collection, *Poachers*, and three novels, *Hell at the Breech*, *Smonk*, and *Crooked Letter*. Recipient of a 1999 Guggenheim Fellowship, he teaches in the University of Mississippi's MFA program. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012)

JOHN FREEMAN, former president of the National Book Critics Circle and a prolific reviewer, has written for about 200 publications in the US and abroad. He was recently named American editor of the British literary journal *Granta* and is completing his first book, *Don't Send: The Unbearable Tyranny of E-mail*. (2009)

BEAU FRIEDLANDER is publisher and editor in chief of Context Books. Previously, he worked for Pantheon and Alfred A. Knopf. Also a poet and art critic, he has written for artist catalogs and published both poems and translations in various magazines. Friedlander was educated at Bennington College, Oxford University, and Columbia University. (2003)

ELIZABETH GAFFNEY is a veteran staff editor at the *Paris Review*, where she worked for sixteen years under George Plimpton. Her short stories have appeared in many magazines, and she has translated three books from German. Her first novel, *Metropolis*, set in post-Civil War New York City, was published this spring. She is now working on her second novel, *The War Effort*, set in New York between World War I and the Vietnam War. Gaffney lives in Brooklyn and teaches writing at New York University. (2005)

LACEY GALBRAITH grew up in Nashville and is completing her MFA degree at the University of Mississippi. Her work has appeared in the *Mississippi Review Online Journal*, *Yalobusha Review*, and *Nashville Scene*. (2003)

DAVID GALEF has published thirteen books, including the novels *Flesh*, *Turning Japanese*, and *How to Cope with Suburban Stress*; the short-story collection *Laugh Track*; an edited anthology of essays called *Second Thoughts: A Focus on Rereading*; a coedited anthology of fiction called *20 Over 40*; and, most recently, the poetry collection *Flaws*. He is a professor of English at the University of Mississippi, where he also administers the MFA program in creative writing. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007)

JONATHAN GALASSI is president and publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. A board member and honorary chairman of the Academy of American Poets, he is the author of two volumes of poetry, *Morning Run* and *North Street*, and translator and editor of four volumes of poems by Eugeni Montale. He received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature in 2000. (2004)

GARY W. GALLAGHER teaches at the University of Virginia, where he is John L. Nau III Professor of History of the American Civil War. Once of the leading historians in his field, he is the author of *Lee and His Generals in War and Memory* and many other books on the Civil War, has coauthored and edited several works on individual battles and campaigns, and has published over 100 articles in scholarly journals and popular historical magazines. Among the many awards he has received for his research and writing are the Laney Prize for the best book on the Civil War, the William Woods Hassler Award for contributions to Civil War studies, the Lincoln Prize, and the Fletcher Pratt Award for the best nonfiction book on the Civil War. (2006)

DWIGHT GARNER is a senior editor of the *New York Times Book Review* and author the “Inside the List” column that covers a wide array of topics including politics, gossip, and bestsellers. Since June 2007 he has also written “Paper Cuts,” a *Times* blog with “book news and opinion, interviews with writers, regular raids on the *Book Review*’s archives, and other special features.” Previously, Garner was an editor with *Harper’s Bazaar* and reviewed books and profiled authors for the *Village Voice*, *Vanity Fair*, and other journals. (2008)

KELLY GERALD earned her doctorate in literature from Auburn University, where she wrote a dissertation on Flannery O’Connor’s early work as a visual artist. She has given presentations on O’Connor’s cartoons in the United States, England, and Europe, and is working on a book on the cartoons. Former assistant director of Mississippi Humanities Council, Gerald is currently pursuing a career as a nonprofit publications specialist in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. (2005)

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. Currently, she is working on a sequel to *Ellen Foster* and a short biography of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. (2004)

JAMES GILL is a columnist for the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* and author of *Lords of Misrule: Mardi Gras and the Politics of Race in New Orleans*. (2006)

ELLEN GILCHRIST is the author of twenty-four books, including the National Book Award-winning *Victory Over Japan* and twelve other collections of short stories, as well as her seventh novel, *A Dangerous Age*, to be released this spring. She has also published two collections of poetry; *The Writing Life*, a collection of short essays; and *Falling Through Space*, personal narratives that first aired as a series of commentaries on National Public Radio’s *Morning Edition*. She lives in Fayetteville, where she teaches creative writing at the University of Arkansas, and in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. (2008)

ALEX GLASS began his publishing career at the Putnam Berkley Publishing Group and was assistant to editor Robert Gottlieb for two years before becoming a literary agent. Glass also spent three years in the literature department of the National Endowment for the Arts, where he helped award over seventy federal grants to American fiction writers, poets, and translators. He specializes in literary fiction and has recently sold first novels to such publishers as William Morrow, Hyperion, Harcourt, and HarperCollins, among others. (2006)

RONALD GOLDFARB is a lawyer, writer, and literary agent based in Washington, D.C. The general counsel of the Associated Writing Programs, he is the author of ten nonfiction books, including *Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes: Robert F. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime*. He served in the Justice Department from 1961 to 1964.

TOMMY GOLDSMITH lived in Nashville for thirty years, working as city editor for the *Tennessean* and as a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and record producer. His songs have been widely recorded, and he had produced many artists as well as *Fair and Tender Ladies* and *Alabama Troubadour* CDs. His writings on music have been printed by a variety of publications, and he edited *The Bluegrass Reader*, published by University of Illinois Press. Goldsmith relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina in 2003 to become the *News and Observer's* features editor. (2004)

SARAH GORHAM is the author of three collections of poetry – *The Cure, The Tension Zone*, and *Don't Go Back to Sleep* – and has published poems and essays in such magazines as *Poetry, The Nation, Anataeus, Paris Review, Georgia Review, Poets & Writers*, and *Poetry Northwest*. In 1994 Gorham founded Sarabande Books Inc., a small press in Louisville, Kentucky, devoted to the publication of poetry, short fiction, and literary nonfiction. She serves as Sarabande's president and editor in chief. (2006)

RICHARD GRANT is a freelance journalist, author and television host currently base in New York. His first book *American Nomads* was a history of wanderlust in North America. In 2012, the BBC aired a documentary of the same name, written and hosted by Grant. His second book was *God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heat of the Sierra Madre*. In 2011 he published *Crazy River: Exploration and Folly in East Africa*. Grant s currently writing a novel, and making a film about infanticide among the tribes of the Omo river valley in southwest Ethiopia. (2012)

JOHN GREEN has received starred reviews from *Kirkus, School Library Journal*, and the *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* for his debut novel, *Looking for Alaska*, published in March 2005 by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin. He says that, like the book's narrator, Miles "Pudge" Halter, "I'm a skinny dork with a last-words obsession who attended a boarding school in Alabama." Green is a production editor and book reviewer for the American Library Association's *Booklist* magazine and a regular contributor to NPR and Chicago's public radio station WBEZ. (2005)

ROB GRIFFITH is an associate professor at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana, where he is editor of the poetry journal *Measure* and the codirector of the University of Evansville Press, which manages the annual Richard Wilbur Book Award. He is the author of three collections of poetry, *Necessary, Poisoning Caesar*, and *A Matinee in Plato's Cave*. His poems, fiction, essays, and articles have appeared in many journals. (2008)

JOHN GRISHAM was a practicing attorney for nearly a decade after receiving his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1981 and served in the Mississippi legislature from 1983 to 1990. Since the publication of his first novel, *A Time to Kill*, in 1988, he has written twenty novels, all of which have become international bestsellers. His first book of nonfiction, *The Innocent Man*, appeared in 2006, and his first collection of stories, *Ford Country*, came out in 2009. (2010)

ANYA GRONER's writing has appeared in journals including *Juked*, *The Rumpus*, *Ninth Letter* and *Story South*. She received her MFA from the University of Mississippi where she had a John and Renée Grisham fellowship in fiction. She currently teaches at Xavier University of Louisiana and is working on a novel about teenage ecoterrorists. (2010, 2012)

MATTHEW GUINN, assistant professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is the author of *After Southern Modernism: Fiction of the Contemporary South* and articles in *South to a New Place* and *A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American South*. He has also published a novel, *The Resurrectionist*. (2007)

ADAM GUSSOW, associate professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, is the author of three books: *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir*, *Seems Like Murder Here: Southern Violence and the Blues Tradition*, and, most recently, *Journeyman's Road: Modern Blues Lives from Faulkner's Mississippi to Post-9/11 New York*. (2008)

KIMIKO HAHN is an American poet of partly Japanese ancestry. She is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *The Narrow Road to the Interior*, *The Artist's Daughter*, *Mosquito and Ant*, and *The Unbearable Heart*, which received an American Book Award. Hahn is the recipient of a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, and an Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award. She is Distinguished Professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York. (2007)

DAVID D. HALL has taught at Harvard Divinity School since 1989. He writes extensively on religion and society in seventeenth-century New England. His books include *The Faithful Shepherd: A History of New England Ministry in the Seventeenth Century*, *Worlds of Wonder*, *Days of Judgement: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England*, *Puritans in the New World: A Critical Anthology* and, most recently, *A Reforming People: Puritanism and the Transformation of Public Life in New England*. Another interest is the "history of the book," especially the history of literacy and reading in early America. He edited, with Hugh Amory, *The Colonial Book in the Atlantic World*, the first of a five-volume series of which he was general editor. (2012)

BARRY HANNAH is the author of eleven 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 latest novel is *Yonder Stands Your Orphan*. He received the 2003 PEN/Malamud Award honoring excellence in the art of the short story. He is writer in residence and director of the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Mississippi. (2003, 2004, 2006)

SARAH FRANCES HARDY's debut children's book *Puzzled by Pink* will be published by Viking Children's Books in the spring of 2012. With a juris doctorate cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law, a Bachelor of Arts in fine art from Davidson College, and subsequent

studies at Parsons School of Design in New York and Paris, Sarah Frances Hardy took an early retirement from practicing law to paint and write full time. (2012)

WILLIAM HARRISON, novelist, short story writer, and screenwriter, founded the Program in Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Harrison is the author of twelve works of fiction and screenplay for two major motion pictures, *Rollerball* and *Mountains of the Moon*, and his work has been featured in dozens of anthologies and has appeared in many magazines. (2010)

RONNE HARTFIELD is the author of *Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family*, which describes the journey of the author's mother from a Mississippi plantation to New Orleans and then to Bronzeville, the epicenter of black Chicago early in the 20th century. This family memoir portrays crucial moments in African American history, from the race riots of 1919 and the Great Depression to the murder of Emmett Till and the dawn of the civil rights movement. Hartfield is a senior research fellow in religion and art at the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions and an international museum consultant. She is the former Woman's Board Endowed Executive Director of Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago and was executive director of Chicago-based Urban Gateways: The Center for Arts in Education. (2005)

MARY HAYES is an assistant professor of English and director of Medieval Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her research interests include the history of the senses/sound theory and magic and the occult. She is currently involved in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. (2011)

WIL HAYGOOD is a journalist and the author of five books, most recently, *Sweet Thunder*, a 2009 biography of the great prize-fighter Sugar Ray Robinson. Currently a staff writer for the Style section of the *Washington Post*, Haygood previously served for seventeen years as a feature writer and national foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe*. (2011)

DONNA HEMANS is the author of the novel *River Woman*, a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in 2003. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals. She leads fiction writing workshops at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and twice served as the Lannan Visiting Creative Writer in Residence at Georgetown University. (2010)

AMY HEMPEL, who is coordinator of Brooklyn College's MFA Program in fiction, has won the 2008 Rea Award for the Short Story, a prize awarded to an American or Canadian writer for "significant contributions to the discipline of the short story form." Her work, *The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel*, was one of the *New York Times*' Ten Best Books of 2006. She also serves as the Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in Fiction at Harvard University. (2010)

PAUL HENDRICKSON, a prize-winning feature writer for the *Washington Post* for more than twenty years, now teaches nonfiction writing at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *The Living and the Dead: Robert McNamara and Five Lives of a Lost War*, a finalist for the National Book Award in 1997. He explores the civil rights era in his new book, *Sons of Mississippi: A Story of Race and Its Legacy*, published in the spring of 2003. (2003)

HENDRIK HERTZBERG, is author of *Politics: Observations and Arguments, 1966-2004*, is a writer and editor for the *New Yorker* magazine and frequently contributes to its "Talk of the Town" section. Hertzberg was on the staff of the *New Republic* magazine for much of the 1980s and on the

White House staff throughout the Carter administration, serving as the president's chief speech writer from 1979 to 1981. (2005, 2010)

LYNN HEWLETT, lifetime friend of Larry Brown, owns and operates the Taylor Grocery restaurant in Taylor, Mississippi. (2007)

KAREN HESSE has won popular and critical acclaim and numerous awards for her books for young readers, including most recently *Aleutian Sparrow*, *Witness*, and *Stonaway*. Her most famous book, *Out of the Dust*, won nine different awards ranging from a Newbery to an American Library Association Notable Children's Book to a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year. Each of her other books has also received multiple awards. She is also the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. (2007)

GREGORY HEYWORTH, associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, is the author of *Desiring Bodies: Ovidian Romance and the Cult of Form*. He developed a portable digital imaging laboratory to recover a unique medieval manuscript damaged during World War II, contributing to medieval studies and offering possibilities for helping recover other manuscripts such as William Faulkner's fire-damaged poems. (2011)

JERE HOAR is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi and an attorney. His debut story collection, *Body Parts*, was a notable book of the year selection by three publications: the *New York Times*, *Booklist*, and *Bookman News*. His critically acclaimed first novel, *The Hit*, tells the story of a Vietnam veteran who is a mental patient at a VA hospital in Mississippi. Hoar has also written three television scripts for public broadcasting and published more than forty scholarly and other magazine articles, six monographs, a textbook chapter, and several short stories that have been anthologized. (2003, 2004, 2005)

BLAIR HOBBS holds an MA degree from Hollins College and an MFA from the University of Michigan. Her poetry has been published in the *Georgia Review* and the *Laurel Review*, among other journals. Hobbs also works as a visual artist, and her collage works have been widely exhibited. She is instructor of English at the University of Mississippi. (2003)

TOM HOUSE lives in Nashville but his songs, performances, and poetry push the boundaries of country music and have gained worldwide attention for their unique qualities and rough edges. His latest CD, *Long Time Home from Here*, brings the total to seven. He is the author of over 500 poems published nationally and internationally. His poems have been translated into Italian, German, French, and Japanese. His new poetry book, *The World According to Whiskey*, is published by NewSouth Books. (2004)

ARLISS HOWARD has appeared in many American Repertory Theater productions and in *Full Metal Jacket*, *Ruby*, and other films. He made his debut as a screenwriter and film director with an adaptation of Larry Brown's *Big Bad Love*, in which he starred with his wife, Debra Winger. (2007)

LEANNE HOWE, an American Indian author, playwright, and scholar, is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She writes fiction, creative nonfiction, plays, poetry, and screenplays that primarily deal with American Indian experiences. Her plays have been produced in Los Angeles, New York City, New Mexico, Maine, Texas, and Colorado, and she is the screenwriter and on-camera narrator for the ninety-minute PBS documentary *Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire*. She is currently the John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2007)

RICHARD HOWORTH is founder of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, and past president of the American Booksellers Association. He served as mayor of Oxford from 2001 to 2009 and was honored with the 2008 Authors Guild Award for Distinguished Service to the Literary Community. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

WINSON HUDSON was born in 1916 and is a lifelong resident of the rural, all-black community of Harmony, in Leake County, Mississippi. She helped establish the county NAACP chapter in 1961, served as its president for 38 years, and has devoted her life to combating discrimination. Her many honors include the NAACP's Freedom Award for Outstanding Community Service and inclusion in Brian Lanker's photography book on black women who changed America, *I Dream a World*. Her story is told in *Mississippi Harmony: Memoirs of a Freedom Fighter*. (2003)

ALAN HUFFMAN has been a farmer, a journalist, and a historical researcher. His work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Clarion-Ledger*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Wildlife*. He is the author of two books: *Ten Point: Deer Camp in the Mississippi Delta* and *Mississippi in Africa: The Saga of the Slaves of Prospect Hill Plantation and Their Legacy in Liberia Today*. (2004)

BRIAN KEITH JACKSON is the author of three novels: *The View from Here*, winner of First Fiction Literary Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association; the critically acclaimed *Walking Through Mirrors*; and *The Queen of Harlem*, which was named one of the Best Books of 2002 by *Black Issues Book Review*. Jackson has received fellowships from Art Matters, the Jerome Foundation, and the Millay Colony of the Arts. (2006)

MAJOR JACKSON is the author of two collections of poetry, *Hoops* and *Leaving Saturn*, winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize and finalist for a National Book Prize and finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award. His third volume of poetry, *Holding Company*, is forthcoming from W. W. Norton. He is the Richard Dennis Green and Gold Professor at the University of Vermont and a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars. He serves as the poetry editor of the *Harvard Review*. (2009)

MARK JARMAN is the author of numerous collections of poetry and *Iris*, a book-length poem. His poetry and essays have been published in the *New Yorker*, *Southern Review*, *Yale Review*, and others. Two collections of Jarman's essays have been published; with David Mason, he coedited *Rebel Angels: 25 Poets of the New Formalism* (1996). He is Centennial Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. (2010)

RANDAL JELKS is an associate professor of American Studies with a joint appointment in African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas. HE is the coeditor of the journal *American Studies* and one of the founders and coeditors of the blog theblackbottom.com Dr. Jelks was the 2006-2007 Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at the National Humanities Center and in 2008 he was the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor at the University of Kansas. Dr. Jelks has published *African Americans in the Furniture City: the Civil Rights Struggle in Grand Rapids, Michigan*, and has a forthcoming book on Martin Luther King Jr.'s mentor titled *The Schoolmaster of the Movement: Benjamin Elijah Mays, A Religious Rebel in Jim Crow America*. (2012)

TYEHIMBA JESS is the author of *Leadbelly*, a biography written in verse and winner of the 2004 National Poetry Series. He received a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2004 and was a 2004-2005 Winter Fellow at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. He is an assistant professor of creative writing at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. (2006)

DEBORAH JOHNSON is the author of *The Air Between Us*, a novel, and *Tuscanny*, *The Lion of Venice*, *Maiden of Fire*, and *The Maltese Star*, historical romances under the pen name Doborah Johns. Johnson is the editor for Genesis Press and executive director of the Colom Foundation in Columbus, Mississippi. Previously, she lived in Rome for eighteen years, working as an editor and translator and, for the final three years, as an announcer for Vatican Radio. (2009)

DANIEL W. JONES has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since July 2009. He previously served as vice chancellor for health affairs, dean of the School of Medicine, and Herbert G. Langford Professor of Medicine at the University Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson. A native Mississippian, he graduated from Mississippi College in 1971 and earned his MD and completed residency training at UMMC. (2010, 2011, 2012)

NORMAN W. JONES is associate professor and English Department coordinator at Ohio State University, where he teaches courses in 20th- and 21st-century American literature, film and the Bible. He is coeditor of *The King James Bible After Four Hundred Years: Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Influence* and the author of *Gay and Lesbian Historical Fiction: Sexual Mystery and Post-Secular Narrative*. (2011)

SUZANNE W. JONES, professor of English at the University of Richmond, has published many articles on Southern literature and a book, *Race Mixing: Southern Fiction Since the Sixties*. She is the editor of a collection of essays, *Writing the Woman Artist*, and two collections of stories, *Crossing the Color Line: Reading in Black and White* and *Growing Up in the South: An Anthology of Modern Southern Literature*. She is coeditor of the essay collection *South to a New Place: Region, Literature, Culture*. (2007)

TAYARI JONES is the author of *Leaving Atlanta*, based on her experiences living in Atlanta during the Atlanta Child Murders, and *The Untelling*, a follow-up novel published in spring 2005. *Leaving Atlanta* received the 2002 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, was named Best Novel of the Year by *Atlanta Magazine*, and was the basis for *Black Issues Book Review* naming Jones Best New Author that year. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *New Stories from the South*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and other publications. She teaches at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (2005)

A. VAN JORDAN is the author of *Rise, M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A*, and *Quantum Lyrics*. He has received the Whiting Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and the Pushcart Prize. Jordan, a former environmental journalist who studied film at New York University, is an assistant professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. (2008)

SEBASTIAN JUNGER is an award-winning journalist who writes for numerous publications, including *Outside*, *American Heritage*, and *Men's Journal*, and has published two books, *Fire* and *The Perfect Storm: A True Story about Men Against the Sea*. He has lived most of his life on the Massachusetts coast and now lives in New York. (2004)

RHONA JUSTICE-MALLOY is chair and professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Mississippi. She serves on the boards of the National Theatre Conference and the City Attic Theatre in New York City. Her directing credits include *Pal Joey*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Trojan Women*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Die Fledermans*. Editor of *Theatre History Studies*, she regularly presents her scholarly work in journals and at conferences nationally and internationally. (2008, 2009)

IVO KAMPS is chair of English Department at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of a book on Stuart drama and editor of *Materialist Shakespeare*, *Shakespeare Left and Right*, and six other collections. The Early Modern Cultural Series, which he and Jean Howard edit for Palgrave Press, has twenty-five titles in print so far. (2010, 2011, 2012)

DONALD M. KARTIGANER is Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies Emeritus at the University of Mississippi and director of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. In addition to his work on Faulkner, he has published articles and book chapters on a number of modernist writers and theorists. (2010)

ROBERT EARL KEEN is a Texas singer-songwriter who has released more than a dozen CDs and written more than 100 songs. Among his albums are *Live Dinner*, *No Kinda Dancer*, *Gringo Honeymoon*, *Farm Fresh Onions*, and *What I Really Mean*. He discovered Larry Brown through the novel *Dirty Work*, and the two eventually met and became friends. Brown wrote a feature story on Keen for *No Depression* in 2001. (2007)

SARAH KENNEDY is the author of six books of poetry, including *Home Remedies*, *A Witch's Dictionary*, and *Consider the Lilies*. She is the coeditor of the anthology *Common Wealth: Contemporary Poets of Virginia* and a contributing editor for *Pleiades* and *West Branch*. She is the book review editor for *Branch*. She is the book review editor for *Shenandoah* and teaches at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. (2011)

WATT KEY is an award-winning Southern fiction author. He grew up and currently lives in southern Alabama with his wife and family. Key spent much of his childhood hunting and fishing the forests of Alabama, which inspired his debut novel, *Alabama Moon*, winner of the 2007 E. B. White Read-Aloud Award. The book was also released as a feature film in 2009. Key's second novel, *Dirt Road Home*, is scheduled for publication in July 2010. (2010)

BOBBY KEYS has been an in-demand session and touring saxophone player since the 1950s. He has toured and recorded with The Rolling Stones since 1970, and has played on record or onstage with Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly's Crickets, Joe Cocker, Eric Clapton, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Keith Moon, Warren Zevon, and Sheryl Crow, among countless others. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee. (2012)

ROBERT C. KHAYAT, an avid reader, has been chancellor of the University of Mississippi since 1995. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007)

JAMES KIMBRALL is the author of two volumes of poems, *The Gatehouse Heaven* and *My Psychic*, and translator, with Yu Jung-yul, of *Three Poets of Modern Korea: Yi Sang, Habm Dong-seon, and Choi Young-mi*. His work has been included in the *Bread Loaf Anthology of New American Poets*, *American Poetry: The Next Generation*, and *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*. He directs the creative writing program at Florida State University and is the John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writing at the University of Mississippi for 2008-2009. (2009)

HAVEN KIMMEL is the author of two memoirs, the bestselling *A Girl Named Zippy: Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana* and *She Got Up Off the Couch*, and four novels – *The Solace of Leaving Early*, *Something Rising (Light and Swift)*, *The Used World* and *Iodine*. Her publications include the illustrated children's books *Orville: A Dog Story* and *Kaline Klattermaster's Tree House* and a retelling of the Book of Revelation. (2009)

LARRY I. KING is a novelist, journalist, and playwright. A high-school dropout who became a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, a Communications Fellow at Duke, and holder of an endowed chair at Princeton, he has written thirteen books and seven stage plays, as well as documentaries, screenplays, short stories, and hundreds of magazine essays. He is the only writer nominated for a unique "Triple Crown" of American letters: a National Book Award, a Broadway Tony, and a television Emmy. His other honors include the Stanley Walker Journalism Award and the Helen Hayes and Molly Goldwater awards as a playwright. King's new book is a memoir of Willie Morris. (2006)

JEFF KLEINMAN is an agent with Graybill & English Literary Agency in Washington, D.C. His recent sales include Robert Hick's *The Grove* to Warner Books for six figures and bonuses, film options pending, and Ron McLarty's *Memory of Running* to Viking Penguin for over \$2 million. He prefers narrative nonfiction with a historical bent, but also considers nature, travel, politics, espionage, and biography, among other categories. His taste in fiction includes science fiction, suspense, thrillers, main-stream commercial, and literary fiction. (2005)

HANK KLIBANOFF is managing editor for news at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and with Gene Roberts, former editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and former managing editor of the *New York Times*, wrote *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*. The book received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for history. Klibanoff is the former deputy managing editor for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where he worked for twenty years. He was also a reporter for three years at the *Boston Globe* and six years in Mississippi for the *Daily Herald*, *South Mississippi Sun* (now the *Sun-Herald*), and the *Delta Democrat Times*. (2008)

DOROTHY KNIGHT, a native of Kingsland, Georgia, received a BA in English from Valdosta State University in 2006. She is now an MFA student in the University of Mississippi's poetry program. (2011)

MICHAEL KNIGHT is the author of two short-story collections, *Dogfight and Other Stories* and *Goodnight, Nobody*, and the novel *Divining Rod*. He is the recipient of several awards for his work, including the *Dictionary of Literary Biography's* 1999 Best First Novel Award, the Fellowship of Southern Writers' 1999 New Writing Award, and a 1999 Special Citation in Fiction from the PEN/Hemingway Foundation. He serves as the director of the creative writing program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and is the 2005-2006 John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2006)

FREDERIC KOEPPPEL is book review editor of the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*. He also writes KoeppelOnWine.com, a magazine-style format for wine reviews and commentary, and "Bigger than Your Head," a wine blog that "gazes critically at the creating and preparing, the marketing and selling, the truth and the hypocrisy, the issues and the language behind what we eat and drink." (2008)

MARY LYNN KOTZ is the author of *Rauschenberg: Art and Life* and three other books, including *A Passion for Equality*, written with her husband, Nick Kotz. She is a contributing editor to *ARTnews* magazine and has written for major magazines since receiving her degree in journalism from the University of Mississippi. (2006)

NICK KOTZ is the author of *Judgement Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Law that Changed America*, his fifth book examining American history and public policy. As a reporter for the *Des Moines Register* and the *Washington Post*, and as a freelance writer, he has won many of journalism's most important honors, including the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Washington correspondence, the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award, and the first Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award. (2005)

JAMIE KORNEGAY is owner of Turnrow Book Company in Greenwood, Mississippi. His fiction has appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café II*, *The Alumni Grill*, and *They Write Among Us: New Stories and Essays from the Best of Oxford Writers*. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2011)

MICHAEL KUPPERMAN is an American cartoonist and illustrator whose work has appeared in magazines ranging from the *New Yorker* to *Fortune*, newspapers from the *New York Times* to the *Village Voice*, and numerous books. His work has been collected in *Snake 'n' Bacon's Cartoon Caberet* and *Tales Designed to Thrizzle*. (2011)

DR. LUCIUS "LUKE" LAMPTON is a family physician in Magnolia and Tylertown, Mississippi. He is editor/publisher of the award-winning *Magnolia Gazette* newspaper and associate editor of the *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*. His work on Mark Twain and Southern history has been featured on the BBC, C-SPAN, the History Channel, and Turner South. He is an avid reader and book collector. (2004)

JOHN LANGSTON has worked at the University Press of Mississippi for twenty-six years. His titles have included book designer, production manager, art director and assistant director. His designs for Mississippi writers and artists have been crucial to the development of the Press's regional publishing program. (2010)

LAUREN LANZA is a manager of Square Books Jr. in Oxford, Mississippi. (2007)

INGRID LAW's debut novel, *Savvy*, was published in May 2008 by Dial Books for Young Readers in partnership with Walden Media. Walden Media secured prepublication rights to develop the novel into a feature film. *Savvy* quickly made the *New York Times* Best Seller List and has won numerous awards, including recently being named as a 2009 Newbery Honor Book. Law lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her teenage daughter and is concentrating on writing. (2010)

STARLING LAWRENCE is editor in chief and vice chairman at W. W. Norton. He is the author of two novels, *Montenegro* and *The Lightning Keeper*, and the story collection *Legacies*. His fiction has been awarded the Lytle Prize by the *Sewanee Review* and the Balch Prize by the *Virginia Quarterly Review*. (2006)

CONSTANCE LAWSON is coordinator for the Mississippi Center for the Book at the Mississippi Library Commission. Programs and activities for which she is responsible include coordinating the 2004 "Mississippi Reads" statewide reading initiative, Mississippi's annual participation in the National Book Festival, and other events to promote reading. She also serves as editor of the Center's quarterly newsletter, *The Mockingbird*, and cultivates partnerships with local libraries, educators, writers, bookstores, and other entities. (2005)

TIM LEE for the past two decades has been a part of the indie rock scene in the South. Starting with his early 80s recordings with the Windbreakers, Lee's work has been praised by the likes of *Rolling Stone*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *Creem*. He has released a half dozen solo records. He and his wife, graphic artist Susan Bauer Lee, served, respectively, as producer/compiler and art director for *Just One More, A Musical Tribute to Larry Brown*. (2007)

GRAHAM LEWIS is the author of a recently published poetry collection, *Forever Came Today*. His poetry, fiction, cartoons, and film criticism have appeared in, among others, *New Letters*, *New American Writing*, *William and Mary Review*, *Asian Cult Cinema*, and *Chattahoochee Review*. He earned English/writing degrees from Eastern Illinois University (BA), Columbia College Chicago (MA), and the University of Arkansas (MFA). Lewis currently teaches composition and writing at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. (2004)

MARY PRATT PERCY LOBDELL is the daughter of Walker Percy and Mary Bernice Townsend Percy. Lobdell earned degrees at St. Mary's Dominican College (BS, Speech Pathology/Audiology) and Xavier University of Louisiana (MEd, Curriculum and Instruction). She began teaching at the elementary level in 1971 and is now a Parish Reading Teacher Leader and English chair for Lee Road Junior High School. She is a lifelong resident of Covington, Louisiana, but spent 1998 teaching in Switzerland. (2004)

ROBERT LIVINGSTON LOBDELL III is one of four grandsons of Walker Percy and Mary Bernice Townsend Percy. After graduation from St. Paul's School in 1989, Lobdell served three years in the US Navy. After residing in Los Angeles and Houston for several years, he returned home to Covington, Louisiana. He completed EMT training in 2003 and pursues his interests in acting, computer technologies and their applications, and automobile racing. (2004)

TRENT LOTT received BS and JD degrees from the University of Mississippi and practiced law in Pascagoula before going to Washington as assistant to Representative William Colmer of Mississippi. Lott was elected to Congress in 1972 and has served in the US Senate since 1988. He is the author of recently published memoir *Herding Cats: A Life in Politics*. (2006)

BARBARA LOWE teaches English at Oxford High School. As part of her doctoral work at the University of Mississippi, she wrote a dissertation titled “Eying the Prize: Race Relations in Newbery Award Novels, 1922-2000.” (2006)

JOHN LOWE is professor of English and founding director of the Program in Louisiana and Caribbean Studies at Louisiana State University. Among his many publications are *Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston’s Cosmic Comedy* and the edited volume *Approaches to Teaching Hurston’s “Their Eyes Were Watching God” and Other Works*. (2008)

BEVERLY LOWRY was born in Memphis and grew up in Greenville, Mississippi. She is the author of six novels, among them *Come Back, Lolly Ray, Daddy’s Girl*, and *The Track of Real Desires*; two books of nonfiction, *Crossed Over: A Murder, A Memoir* and *Her Dream of Dreams: The Rise and Triumph of Madam C. J. Walker*; and numerous stories and articles. Lowry has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Texas Institute of Letters, and the Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters. She lives in Washington, D.C., and is director of the Creative Nonfiction Program at George Mason University. (2004)

GEORGE ELLA LYON was born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky, and received a BA from Centre College, an MA from the University of Arkansas, and a PhD in English from the University of Indiana. A popular writer of contemporary Appalachian children’s literature, she has published twenty picture books and four novels for young readers. She is also the author of two collections of poems and an adult novel, *With a Hammer for My Heart*. (2003)

JOE MATT studies at the Philadelphia College of Art and then started drawing autobiographical comic strips that were collected in 1992 and published as *Peepshow: The Cartoon Diary of Joe Matt*. *Peepshow* has subsequently been collected as *The Poor Bastard, Fair Weather*, and *Spent*. In addition to cartooning, Matt has developed a large collection of vintage Gasoline Alley comic strips. (2011)

DAVID MARANISS is an associate editor at the *Washington Post*, and the author of four critically acclaimed and bestselling books, *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi*, *First in His Class: A Biography of Bill Clinton*, *The Marched into Sunlight-War and Peace, Vietnam and America, October 1967* and *Clemente-The Passion and Grace of Baseball’s Last Hero*. Maraniss is a three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and won the Pulitzer for national reporting in 1993 for his newspaper coverage of then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton. His current project is a biography of President Barack Obama. (2009)

SUZANNE MARRS is the author of *Eudora Welty: A Biography*, *One Writer’s Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora Welty*, and *The Welty Collection: A Guide to the Eudora Welty Manuscripts and Documents and History*. She is the E. B. Stewart Family Professor in Language and Literature at Millsaps College. (2006)

CHRISTOPHER MAURER is the author of *Fortune’s Favorite Child: The Uneasy Life of Walter Anderson*, winner of the 2003 Eudora Welty Prize and the nonfiction award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. Another of his books, written with María Estrella Iglesias, is a history of the Anderson family and Shearwater Pottery, *Dreaming in Clay on the Coast of Mississippi: Love and Art at Shearwater*. A noted scholar of Spanish poetry and on the work of Federico García Lorca,

Maurer is chair of the Department of Romance Languages and professor of Spanish literature at Boston University. (2009)

SHARA MCCALLUM is the author of *The Water Between Us*, winner of the 1998 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, and *Song of Thieves*. Her poems and essays have been published in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Beyond the Frontier: African American Poetry for the 21st Century*. Among her awards are an Academy of American Poets Prize and a Tennessee Individual Artist Fellowship. She teaches in the MFA program at the University of Memphis. (2003)

BEN MCCLELLAND is a professor of English and holder of the Schillig Chair of English Composition at the University of Mississippi, where for eighteen years he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in writing and literature. He is the author of essays and books on writing and a memoir, *Soldier's Son*. He is currently working on a book-length study of a small town in mid-20th-century America under the working title *Murder in Klondike*. (2004)

DAVIS MCCOMBS won the 1999 Yale Younger Poets Prize for his book *Ultima Thule*. His poem "The River and Under the River" was selected by Adrienne Rich for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry 1996*. His work has appeared in the *Missouri Review* (which in 1998 named McCombs its Tom McAfee Discovery Feature poet), *no roses review*, and the *Columbia Poetry Review*. He lives in Munfordville, Kentucky, and works as a park ranger at Mammoth Cave. (2005)

JILL MCCORKLE is the author of five novels – *The Cheer Leader*, *July 7th*, *Tending to Virginia*, *Ferris Beach*, and *Carolina Moon* – and the collections of stories *Crash Diet*, *Final Vinyl Days*, and *Creatures of Habit*. McCorkle has received numerous awards, and in 2003 she was inducted in the Fellowship of Southern Writers. (2007)

TERRY MCDONELL was managing editor of *Sports Illustrated* before becoming editor of the Sports Illustrated Group in 2007. A novelist (*California Bloodstock*) and television writer (*Miami Vice*, *China Beach*), he has wide publishing experience, having served in various editorial and executive capacities for *Outside*, *Rolling Stone*, *Newsweek*, *Smart*, *Esquire*, *Sports Afeld*, *Men's Journal*, and *Us* before joining *Sports Illustrated* in 2002. (2009)

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 the Wolf River Book Club, which has met monthly for more than three decades. Shelby Foote was one of the seven members of the club. (2006)

MICHAEL MCFEE is professor of English and director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of nine collections of poetry, most recently, *The Smallest Talk*, and *The Napkin Manuscripts: Selected Essays on the Interview*. McFee is also the editor of *This Is Where We Live: Short Stories by 25 Contemporary North Carolina Writers* and two other anthologies. (2011)

PEARL MCHANEY, associate professor of English at Georgia State University, is the editor of the *Eudora Welty Review* and of collections of book reviews Welty wrote and received. This spring McHaney has two new books, *Eudora Welty as Photographer* with forty photographs by Welty (thirty previously unpublished) and *Occasions: Selected Writings by Eudora Welty* with stories, essays, tributes and recipes not collected in Welty's other books. (2009)

KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published articles about various Southern writers, including Sherwood Bonner, William Faulkner, Bobbie Ann Mason, and Josephine Humphreys. She recently coedited a special issue of the journal *American Literature* called “Global Contexts, Local Literatures,” and she is currently coediting a volume about representations of the South in film. (2003, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2011)

MARGARET MCMULLAN is the author of four novels: *In My Mother’s House*, *How I Found the Strong*, *When Warhol Was Still Alive*, and *When I Crossed No-Bob* – as well as the motion picture script *Sacred Heart*. In 2005 she won the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction and Southwestern Indiana’s Arts Council Award for Artist of the Year. She and her husband, Patrick O’Connor, and their son, James, have work in an upcoming issue of *National Geographic for Kids*. McMullan is a professor of English at the University of Evansville, in Indiana. (2004, 2008)

JON MEACHAM, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, presidential historian, and contributing editor of *Time*, is executive vice president and executive editor of Random House Publishing Group. His book *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Meacham received the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009. His other books include *Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship*, *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*. (2004, 2012)

JAMES MEEK is an award-winning journalist and author of *The People’s Act of Love*, nominated for the 2005 Booker Prize. He has also published two other novels, *McFarlane Boils the Sea* and *Drivetime*, and two collections of stories, *Last Orders*, and *The Museum of Doubt*. He lived in the former Soviet Union from 1991 to 1999 and now lives in London, where he writes for the *Guardian* and contributes to the *London Review of Books* and *Granta*. (2006)

MCHAELE MEWSHAW is the author of eight critically acclaimed novels, including *Year of the Gun*, which became a John Frankenheimer film starring Sharon Stone, and half a dozen successful books of nonfiction. He has two new books: the novel *Shelter from the Storm*, a thriller set in Central Asia, and *Do I Owe You Something?: A Memoir of the Literary Life*. (2003)

JONATHAN MILES is the author of a novel, *Dear American Airlines*, which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and a Best Book of 2008 by the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and others. His second novel, *Want Not*, is forthcoming. A former longtime resident of Oxford, he lives in New York. (2007, 2008, 2010)

E. ETHELBERT MILLER is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *Whispers, Secrets, and Promises*, and *First Light: New and Selected Poems*. He is also the author of the memoir *Fathering Words: The Making of an African American Writer* (2000), selected in 2003 for the One Book, One City program sponsored by the Washington, D.C., Public Libraries. He has been director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University since 1974. (2010)

LYDIA MILLET is the author of novels *Omnivores*; *George Bush*, *Dark Prince of Love*; *My Happy Life*; *Everyone’s Pretty*; *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*; and *How the Dead Dream*. Her most recent publication is a collection of short fiction titled *Love and Infant Monkeys*. (2009)

JERRY LEATH “JAKE” MILLS, a retired English professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, recently donated his correspondence with Larry Brown to the University of Mississippi’s Department of Archives and Special Collections. The collection includes thirty-one letters as well as photographs and manuscripts. (2007)

D. ALLAN MITCHELL, a native of Jackson and a graduate of the University of Virginia, is a first-year student in the MFA poetry program at the University of Mississippi. He writes for the campus newspaper and hosts *Highway 61*, a weekly blues program, on Public Radio in Mississippi. (2003)

LEIGH ANN MORGAN chairs the Young Authors Fair project for the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford. (2004, 2005)

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 ten 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. (2009, 2010)

SCOTT M. MORRIS is originally from Florida and now lives in Oxford, Mississippi, where he teaches English at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of two novels, *The Total View of Taftly* and *Waiting for April*. He has served as an editor at the *Weekly Standard* and is a reviewer for the *Washington Post* and other publications. (2003)

BRUCE MURKOFF attended New York University and the American Film Institute. He spent many years in California writing for television. He now lives with his wife, the artist Suzanne Caporaal, in Stone Ridge, New York. His first novel, *Waterbone*, was published by Knopf in February 2004. (2004)

JAN MURRAY is professor of art and associate dean of Liberal Arts and the University of Mississippi. (2008)

HORACE NEWCOMB is professor of telecommunications at the University of Georgia and the author of *TV: The Most Popular Art*, coauthor of *The Producer’s Medium*, and editor of six editions of *Television: The Critical View*, and *The Museum of Broadcast Communications Encyclopedia of Television*. He and Barry Hannah were undergraduates together at Mississippi College. (2010)

MAUD NEWTON is a writer and critic whose work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Bookform*, *Narrative*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Paris Review Daily*, *Granta*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Awl*, the *Boston Globe*, the *American Prospect*, *Salon*, the *Washington Post Book World*, *Swink*, *Barnes & Noble Review*, and many other publications. She was awarded the 2009 Narrative Prize for “When the Flock Changed,” an excerpt from her novel-in-progress, and the 2004 Irwin and Alice Stark Short Fiction Prize for “Regarding the Insurance Defense Attorney,” an early story published online at Eyseshot. Newton started blogging in May 2002 with the aim of finding others who were passionate about books with writer, critic, and *Agni* editor Sven Birkerts as part of the University of Pittsburgh’s Contemporary Writers Series. (2012)

AIMEE NEZHUKUMZTAHIL has received many awards for her poems, which have been widely published in journals and anthologies. Her chapbook, *Fishbone*, won the Snail's Pace Press Prize, and her first full-length collection, *Miracle Fruit*, won the *Foreword Magazine's* Poetry Book of the Year Award and the Tupelo Press First Book Prize. She was the 2000-2001 Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is now assistant professor of English at State University of New York-Fredonia. (2006)

SUSAN NICHOLAS has been managing director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council in Oxford, Mississippi, since 2002. Under her leadership the Council has established "My First Chapter," an early intervention literacy program and distributed thousands of books to the children of Lafayette County. A lifelong reader, she is also a busy wife and mother of two. (2004, 2005)

LEWIS NORDAN is the author of four novels – *The Music of the Swamp*, *Wolf Whistle*, *The Sharpshooter Blues*, and *Lightning Song* – 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. He is also author of a memoir, *Boy with Loaded Gun*. Lewis Nordan has received the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, two Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters awards, and three American Library Association awards. (2006)

TÉA OBREHT was born in the former Yugoslavia, spent her childhood in Cyprus and Egypt, and immigrated to the United States in 1997. An excerpt from her newly published debut novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, appeared in 2010 in the *New Yorker*, which named her as one of the 20 Best American Fiction Writers under 40. She was also included in the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" list. (2011)

JAMES V. O'CONNOR is president of O'Connor Communications, a public relations and marketing communications firm in Chicago. The firm specializes in author and book promotion through book signings, media coverage, on-line reviews, speaking engagements, and special events. O'Connor is also a freelance writer and the author of *Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing* and *Another Man's Treasure*, a forthcoming novel. (2009, 2010)

LYDIA M. O'CONNOR is executive vice president of O'Connor Communications in Chicago. Before joining that firm in 1993, she managed special projects, events, and publicity for the Chicago International Film Festival; conducted publicity for a \$20 million fund-raising campaign for the Field Museum of Natural History; and was the cofounder and publicity director of the Children's Legal Clinic. (2009, 2010)

THOMAS OLIPHANT is the author of *Praying for Gil Hodges: A Memoir of the 1955 World Series and One Family's Love of the Brooklyn Dodgers*. Oliphant began as a correspondent for the *Boston Globe* in 1968 and was its Washing columnist from 1989 until his retirement in 2007. A noted political commentator, he was a frequent guest on *The New Hour with Jim Lehrer*. (2006, 2011)

ROSEMARY OLIPHANT-INGRAM is associate professor of English education at the University of Mississippi, where she teaches children's and adolescent literature. She has published and lectured nationally and internationally on the importance of creating students who enjoy reading. As a reviewer for the National Council of Teachers of English, she has contributed to two editions of *Books for You* and has served on the international Reading Association's Children's

Choices committee. She has published a biographical sketch of Louisa May Alcott and is currently writing a biography of Karen Hesse. (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012)

JOHN OSIER grew up in Tennessee, worked as a newspaper reporter for the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, and taught English at various Southern colleges. He is the author of three novels, *Covenant at Coldwater*, *Rankin*, *Enemy of the State*, and *Edge*. Osier was Larry Brown's first creative writing teacher. (2007)

TED OWNBY is a professor of Southern Studies and history and director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He 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*. (2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

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 Wolf River Book Club in Memphis, Tennessee. (2006)

RICHARD PECK has written more than thirty novels for middle graders and young adults. He has won almost every national children's fiction award and was the first children's author to be awarded a National Humanities Medal. His *A Year Down Yonder* won the 2001 Newbery Medal, and its prequel, *A Long Way from Chicago*, was a National Book Award finalist and a Newbery Honor Book. His recent books are the story collection *Past Perfect, Present Tense* and *The River Between Us*, a Civil War novel for young adults. He lives in New York City. (2005)

JON PARRISH PEEDE, a University of Mississippi Southern Studies Graduate Program alumnus, is director of Literature, Grants Programs for the National Endowment for the Arts. He is also director of *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*, an NEA program that preserves the stories of US military personnel who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their families. In addition, Peede has published nearly 100 articles, essays, and creative works. Most recently he coedited *Inside the Church of Flannery O'Connor: Sacrament, Sacramental, and the Sacred in Her Fiction*. (2005, 2010)

GEORGE P. PELECANOS is the author of thirteen crime/noir novels set in and around Washington, D.C., including *The Sweet Forever*, *Shame the Devil*, *Right as Rain*, *Hell to Pay* (the recipient of the 2003 *Los Angeles Times* Boo Award), *Hard Revolution*, and his latest, *Drama City*, released this spring. He is an award-winning journalist and essayist who has written for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *GQ*, *Uncut*, *Mojo*, and numerous other publications. *Esquire* magazine called Pelecanos "the poet laureate of the D.C. crime world." In addition to writing, he has produced several feature films and is a staff writer and story editor for the acclaimed HBO dramatic series *The Wire*. (2005)

KAREN PELL is a country music song-writer, producer, and performer who worked in Nashville for over ten years and performs nationally and internationally. Since the fall of 1997 she has lived in Alabama and been an adjunct professor of English at Auburn University Montgomery. She is the creator of *Alabama Troubadour*, a collection of songs and essays about unique sites in the state. The book, illustrated by Tim Henderson's photographs, was published by River City Publishing in 2003.

Also, Pell formed a four-piece acoustic band, the Alabama Troubadours, that recorded a CD in May 2000 and continues to perform across the southeast. (2004)

JACK PENDARVIS is the author of the novel *Awesome*, two collections of stories, *The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure: Curious Stories* and *Your Body Is Changing: Stories*, and jackpendarvis.blogspot.com. He is a columnist for *Oxford American* and *The Believer*. His work has appeared in *McSweeney's*, the *New York Times*, and the 2006 Pushcart Prize anthology. He teaches creative writing at the University of Mississippi. (2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012)

SUSAN PHILLIPS is director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council and director of Discovery Day School in Oxford. A native Oxonian and a graduate of the University of Mississippi, she has taught reading and creative writing to students from kindergarten to the university level. (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

MARY ANDERSON PICKARD, older daughter of Walter Anderson, has been instrumental in preserving and publishing her father's work. In addition to editing and writing the text for more than a dozen books of his art, she wrote the essay for *Hamlet and Beyond: Literature through the Eyes of Walter Anderson*, an exhibition that focused on Anderson's use of literature. Pickard was a teacher for many years – from kindergarten to English for college freshmen – and helped found the Anderson Players of Ocean Springs and acted in and directed many productions. A painter and an avid bird watcher, she loves to read as well as write. (2009)

JOHN PILKINGTON is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Mississippi. He has published numerous works about American literature, including a biography of Stark Young and the two-volume *Stark Young, A Life in the Arts: Letters, 1900-1962*. (2003)

PATRICIA PINSON has been active on the Gulf Coast teaching college art history and criticism and as curator of exhibitions at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art. There, she curated over fifty exhibitions as well as the Anderson Centennial at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC., and other traveling shows. She has also been active in recognizing women artists through the Mississippi Committee of National Museum of Women in the Arts, adjudicating art shows and speaking to museum and civic groups. She is editor of *The Art of Walter Anderson* and coeditor of *Form and Fantasy: The Block Prints of Walter Anderson*. (2009)

DEBORAH PLANT is the author of *Zora Neale Hurston: A Biography of Spirit* and *Every Tub Must Sit on Its Own Bottom: The Philosophy and Politics of Zora Neal Hurston*. Plant is associate professor Africana Studies at the University of South Florida. (2008)

NOEL POLK, professor emeritus at Mississippi State University, is the author or editor of over a dozen volumes, including *Outside the Southern Myth*, *Children of the Dark House*, *Eudora Welty: A Bibliography of Her Work*, and *Reading Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury*. He is editor of the *Mississippi Quarterly*. He and Barry Hannah were undergraduates together at Mississippi College. (2010)

KATHY PORIES is a senior editor at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, where she has worked with authors such as Daniel Wallace, author of *Big Fish*, Silas House, award-winning author of *Clay's Quilt* and *A Parchment of Leaves*, and Scott Morris, author of *Waiting for April*. She also serves as editor of Algonquin's in-house magazine, *The Algonkian*. She received her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (2003)

PEGGY WHITMAN PRENSHAW teaches at Millsaps College and is the former Fred C. Frey Chair of Southern Studies at Louisiana State University. She is author and editor of volumes on Eudora Welty, Elizabeth Spencer, contemporary Southern women writers, and Southern cultural history. Her *Composing Selves: Southern Women and Autobiography* received the 2011 Jules and Frances Landry Award, given annually to the best new book in Southern Studies published by LSU Press. (2009, 2010, 2011)

PAMELA PRIDGEN received a master of library science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and is director of the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. She has served as president of the Mississippi Library Association and is a board member of the Mississippi Library Commission. (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)

ZAKHAR PRILEPIN is a fiction writer, poet, and journalist who lives in Nzhny Novgorod. He is the author of the novels, *Sin*, *Pathology*, and *Sanka*, which won the Yasnaya Polyana award. He is general director of the Nizhny Novgorod paper *New Gazette*. (2008)

JOHN PRITCHARD, author of the novels *Junior Ray* and *The Yazoo Blues*, lives in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has taught college-level English for more than thirty years. (2009)

TODD S. PURDUM, an award-winning journalist, joined *Vanity Fair* as national editor in 2006. Purdam had spent the last twenty-three years at the *New York Times*, where he started as a copyboy in 1982. He most recently worked in the Washington bureau, where he also served as a diplomatic and White House correspondent. (2010)

PATRICK QUINN chairs the English Department at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are *An Anthology of Colonial and Post-Colonial Fiction*, *The Conning of America: The Great War and American Popular Literature*, and *Beyond Modern Memory: The Literature of the First World War Reconsidered*. (2007, 2008)

JOHN QUISENBERRY, a lifelong friend of Barry Hannah, grew up in Clinton, Mississippi. After graduating from the US Naval Academy in 1965, he served in the Navy as a fighter pilot aboard the USS *Bon Homme Richard*. Leaving the Navy, he flew as a copy duster in Mississippi and California. Ultimately, he landed in Los Angeles, where for the past thirty years he has practiced law. (2010)

TOM RANKIN is director of the Center for Documentary Studies and associate professor of the Practice of Art and Documentary Studies at Duke University. A photographer, filmmaker, and folklorist, he currently chairs the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. His books include *Sacred Space: Photographs from the Mississippi Delta*, which received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Photography; *"Deaf Maggie Lee Sayre": Photographs of a River Life*; *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*; and *Local Heroes Changing America: Invisible*. (2007)

ANNE RAPP was a film supervisor in the film industry for fifteen years and for more than forty feature films, beginning with *Tender Mercies* in 1981 and ending with *That Thing You Do* in 1997. She then studied with Barry Hannah at the University of Mississippi and, after receiving an MFA, returned home to Texas to write and work with the director Robert Altman. (2010)

CAROL HAMPTON RASCO is president and chief executive of Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., America's oldest and largest nonprofit children's and family literacy organization. From 1997 through 2000, she served as the senior advisor to US Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and director of the America Reads Challenge, a four-year national campaign to promote the importance of all children reading well and independently by the end of third grade. (2004)

RON RASH is the author of three books of poems, *Eurek Mill*, *Believers*, and *Raising the Dead*. He is also the author of two collections of stories, *The Night the New Jesus Fell to Earth* and *Casualties*. His first published novel, *One Foot in Eden*, won the 2002 Novello Literary Award. Among his other awards are an American Academy of Poets Prize and an NEA Poetry Fellowship. Rash is on the faculty at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina, and teaches poetry in the MFA program at Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina. (2003)

SHANNON RAVENEL, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, was series editor of *The Best American Short Stories*, for fourteen years before she inaugurated the *New Stories from the South* series. Formerly editorial director of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hills, she now directs her Algonquin imprint, Shannon Ravenel Books. (2003, 2007)

JANISSE RAY is the author of the American Book Award-winning *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home*. She has published essays and poems in *Audubon*, *Hope*, *Natural History*, *Orion*, and *Sierra*, among others, and her work has appeared in *American Nature Writing 2000* and other anthologies. She has also provided commentaries for Peach State Public Radio and NPR's *Living on Earth*. She is John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi for 2003-2004. (2004)

JULIA REED was born in Greenville, Mississippi in 1930. She is contributing editor at *Elle Décor* and *Garden and Gun* magazine, where she writes a regular column. For twenty years she was a contributing editor at *Vogue*. She is the author of *The House on First Street, My New Orleans Story; Ham Biscuits, Hostess Gowns, and Other Southern Specialties: An Entertaining Life (With Recipes);* and *Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena*. Her next book, *But Mama Always Put Vodka in Her Sangria: Adventures in Eating, Drinking, and Making Merry* will be published in spring 2013. (2004, 2005, 2009, 2012)

WILLIAM REED, of Memphis, Tennessee, was a member of Shelby Foote's book club. Foote missed very few meetings, and only for illness, according to Reed, who added: "We'd usually talk about everything but the book." He said Foote was a particular champion of Proust and Chekhov, and the last book Foote assigned the group was Carson McCuller's *The Member of the Wedding*. (2006)

FREDERICK REUSS is the acclaimed author of five novels, *A Geography of Secrets*, *Horace Afoot*, *Henry of Atlantic City*, *The Wasties*, and *Mobr: A Novel*. He lives in Washington, D.C. (2012)

JULIA RHOLES is dean of libraries at the University of Mississippi where she leads efforts to develop distinctive research collections and innovative library services and programs. She has held elected positions within the American Library Association, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, and the EP-SCOR Science Information Group (ESIG). (2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

MARK RICHARD is the author of two collections of stories, *The Ice at the Bottom of the World* and *Charity*, the novel *Fishboy: A Ghost Story*, and scripts for film and television. His newly published memoir, *House of Prayer No. 2*, tells the story of his life beginning as a “special child” growing up amid racial tension and religious fervor in the American South. Richard was John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 1994 – 1995. (2007, 2010, 2011)

STEVEN RINELLA is a Michigan native and correspondent for *Outside* magazine. His essays and reporting have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Nerve*, *DoubleTake*, *The Best American Travel Writing* (2004), and *Field and Stream*. His first book, *The Scavenger’s Guide to Haute Cuisine*, a combination memoir, cookbook, and travelogue, was published in March 2006 to enthusiastic reviews from literary and food critics. While earning an MFA from the University of Montana, he took a nonfiction workshop Larry Brown taught there in late 1999. “Of all my teachers, he has the strongest influence on me,” Rinella says. (2007)

HOUSTON ROBERSON is associate professor of history at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is author of *The Good Fight: The Story of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, 1865-1977* and coeditor of *Teaching the American Civil Rights Movement*. (2008)

LYN ROBERTS has been manager of Square Books since completing her law degree at the University of Mississippi. She is a member of the planning committee for the Oxford Conference for the Book and helps coordinate arrangements for the annual program. (2009, 2010, 2011)

DOUG ROBINSON is professor of English at the University of Mississippi and local coordinator of the Open World Program, which the Library of Congress administers to increase mutual understanding between Russia and the United States. (2007, 2008)

LEWIS ROBINSON is the author of the debut collection *Officer Friendly and Other Stories*. He attended Middlebury College and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he was a teaching-writing fellow and winner of the Glenn Schaeffer Award. He has written for *Sports Illustrated* and the *Boston Globe*. He lives in Portland, Maine. (2003)

MARLY RUSOFF is a former bookseller and publishing executive. She held VP positions at Houghton Mifflin, Doubleday, and William Morrow before opening her agency, Marly Rusoff & Associates, Inc., in New York. Her list of clients includes Pat Conroy, Cassandra King, and Ron Rash. (2003)

KAREN RUSELL was featured in the *New Yorker’s* debut fiction issue and named a 2009 National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” young author honoree for her first book, the story collection *St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. Her stories have appeared in several magazines and in *The Best American Short Stories* (2007 and 2008). Russell’s newly published first novel, *Swamplandia!*, tells about a family of alligator wrestlers in the Florida swamp. (2011)

LEILA SALISBURY has been the director of the University Press of Mississippi (UPM) since July 2008. Prior to her appointment, she was marketing director at the University Press of Kentucky. At UPM she is responsible for the overall direction and management of the scholarly publishing operation, its editorial focus, and new technology initiatives and investments. She serves as primary liaison between the Press and UPM’s eight state university consortium partners. (2010)

GEORGE SAUNDERS has published two short story collections, *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* and *Pastoralia*, and a children's book, illustrated by Lane Smith, *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip*. His fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Story*, and many other publications. He won the National Magazine Award in 1994 for his story "The 400-pound CEO" and again in 1996 for the story "Bounty." He has explored for oil in Sumatra, played guitar in a Texas bar band, and worked in a slaughterhouse. He teaches creative writing at Syracuse University. (2006)

MICHAEL SCHMIDT, a poet, publisher, critic, and translator, was born in Mexico and studied at Harvard and Oxford before settling in England. He is a founder (1969) and editorial and managing director of Carcanet Press Limited, a founder (1972) and general editor of *Poetry Nation Review*, and professor of poetry at the University of Glasgow. Among his numerous publications are *The Resurrection of the Body* and eight other collections of poems; *Lives of the Poets*, a comprehensive overview of six centuries of British poetry; and *The Story of Poetry*, three volumes that combine history, criticism and anthology. (2008)

CORINNA MCCLANAHAN SCHROEDER is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. She completed her BA and BFA at the University of Evansville, and she is currently completing her MFA in Poetry at the University of Mississippi, where she is the recipient of a John and Renée Grisham fellowship in creative writing. Her work is forthcoming in *Haydens Ferry*, *Measure*, and the *Country Dog Review*. She is currently the student coordinator for the Grisham Visiting Writers Series and poetry editor for the *Yalobusha Review*. (2009, 2010)

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 April 1994. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

JESSE J. SCOTT is assistant professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi. His research interests include 20th-century African American literature and African American masculinity in literature and popular film. (2009)

WILLIAM A. SESSIONS, a longtime friend of Flannery O'Connor and her mother, Regina Cline O'Connor, is a member of the board of directors of the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation, Inc. He is also the executor of the literary estate of O'Connor's friend and correspondent Elizabeth Hester, referred to in the collected letters as "A." Regents' Professor of English Emeritus at Georgia State University, Sessions is the author of essays on Flannery O'Connor and the forthcoming authorized biography of the author. (2005)

KIM SEVERSON has been the Atlanta bureau chief for the *New York Times* since November 2010. Before this appointment, she was a dining writer for the *New York Times* for six years. She has also written for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Anchorage Daily News*. She has won several regional and national awards for news and feature writing, including the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for her work on childhood obesity in 2002 and four James Beard awards for food writing. Her memoir, *Spoon Fed: How Eight Cooks Saved My Life*, was published in April 2010. She has also written

The New Alaska Cookbook and *The Trans Fat Solution: Cooking and Shopping to Eliminate the Deadliest Fat from Your Diet*. (2012)

CYNTHIA SHEARER received the 1996 prize for fiction from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters for her first novel, *The Wonder Book of the Air*. Her widely acclaimed second novel, *The Celestial Jukebox*, weaves together the multiethnic culture found in the contemporary Mississippi Delta. While living in Oxford (1984-2003) she taught at the University of Mississippi, was a student and colleague of Barry Hannah, and served as curator of William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. She currently teaches at Texas Christian University and is writing a collection of short stories set in Fort Worth. (2010)

ALEDA SHIRLEY is the author of three volumes of poetry – *Chinese Architecture*, winner of the Poetry Society of America's 1987 Norma Farber First Book Award; *Long Distance*; and *Dar Familiar*, forthcoming from Sarabande Books. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and Kentucky Arts Council, and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Her poems have appeared in such places as the *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. She edited *The Beach Book*, a collection of stories, essays, and poems. She is visiting Straddlefork lecturer in creative writing at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. (2006)

GEORGE SINGLETON is the author of two collections of short stories, *The Half-Mammals of Dixie* and *These People Are Us*. Both are published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. He received his MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and now teaches writing at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. He lives in Dacusville, South Carolina. (2003)

JULIE SMITH is the author of eighteen mystery novels and winner of the 1991 Edgar Allan Poe Award for *New Orleans Morning*, the first of her nine books about the female New Orleans cop Skip Langdon. The most recent Skip Langdon novel is *Mean Woman Blues*. Her next novel, *Louisiana Lament*, is due in July 2004. Smith received a degree in journalism from the University of Mississippi and, before becoming a novelist, worked as a reporter for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. (2004)

R. T. SMITH is writer in residence at Washington and Lee University where he also edits *Shenandoah* and teaches fiction writing. He recently published two volumes of stories, *The Calaboose Epistles* and *Uke Rivers Delivers*. His twelve collections of poetry include *Outlaw Style* and *Messenger*, both of which received the Library of Virginia Poetry Book Award. (2011)

SHARMAN BRIDGES SMITH was appointed executive director of the Mississippi Library Commission in August 2001. An integral part of her duties is directing the construction of the Commission's \$13 million facility. Prior to assuming the executive director's role, Smith served as State Librarian of Iowa from 1992 to 2001. She has a master's of library science degree from George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, and a bachelor of science degree in library science/psychology from the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. (2004)

TRAVIS SMITH is a first-year Grisham Fellow in the University of Mississippi MFA program. He completed a minor in creative writing at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2009. His poems have been published in *Tar River Poetry*, *storySouth*, and *Wag's Revue*. (2011)

WILLIAM JAY SMITH, a Louisiana native with European and Choctaw ancestry, studied at Washing University, Columbia University, and at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. Author of more than fifty books of poetry, children's verse, literary criticism, translations, and memoirs, and editor of several anthologies, he served as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress (now known as the US Poet Laureate) from 1968 until 1970 and has been a member of the Academy of Arts and Letters since 1975. Smith has been recognized nationally and internationally with various awards and honors, including the Loines Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Médaille de Vermeil from the French Academy, and the René Vásquez Díaz prize from the Swedish Academy. His poetry publications include *The World Below the Window: Poems, 1937-1997* and *The Cherokee Lottery*. He divides his time between Cummington, Massachusetts, and Paris. (2004)

KATIE SNODGRASS is manager of Square Books Jr., an independent children's bookstore in Oxford, Mississippi. (2005)

ESTHER SPARKS visiting professor of art history at the University of Mississippi, has previously held teaching and lecturing posts at the Art Institute of Chicago, Northwestern University, the Terra Museum of American Art, and the Arts Club of Chicago. She has been the recipient of a Henry Luce Fund Scholarship and a grant from National Endowment for the Arts. Sparks was chair of exhibitions at the Peoria Museum of Arts and Sciences (1960-1965), curator of collections at Northwestern University (1968-1970), and a curator at the Art Institute of Chicago (1970-1985). (2009)

DECLAN SPRING is Vice President & Senior Editor of New Directions. He has been working there since 1991. He graduated from University of Rochester in 1987 and received his MA in English from NYU in 1990. HE has edited books by Anne Carson, Inger Christensen, H. D., Jenny Erpenbeck, Thalia Field, Forrest Gander, Gustaw Herling, Alvin Levin, Gregory Rabassa, Enrique Vila-Matas, and Paul West. Besides editing, he handles contracts, foreign rights, sub rights, and college marketing. HE also manages the literary rights for the Estates of H. D., Ezra Pound, and William Carlos Williams for which New Direction acts as agent. (2012)

SEETHA SRINIVANA recently retired from the University Press of Mississippi where she had worked for twenty-nine years, with ten of those years as director of the Press. During her tenure the Press published many books by and about Walter Anderson and helped reveal his amazing talent to the world. Among the other internationally recognized works she developed for publication are *Photographs* by Eudora Welty, three titles by noted historian Stephen Ambrose, a retrospective of the work of William Dunlap, and most recently a collection of nonfiction by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. (2009, 2010)

CAROLYN ELLIS STATON joined the faculty of the School of Law at the University of Mississippi in 1977 and was appointed provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs in June 1999. (2006)

KEITH STEPHENS is senior analyst in the Research and Analysis Office of the National Endowment for the Arts. His primary duties include the analysis of applicant and grant information

for internal and congressional reporting, as well as writing and editing. He has been at the Endowment since 1978. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada. (2005)

TRENTON LEE STEWART will speak to fifth graders, who will receive copies of *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, his first novel for children. He lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has written two other books, one for adults (*Flood Summers*) and the second volume of the Mysterious Benedict Society (*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*). He is working on the third novel of the series. (2009)

AMY STOLLS, is the author of *Palms to the Ground*, a young adult novel published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Since 1988, Stolls has also served as literature specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts, where she has worked with hundreds of distinguished authors, translators, editors, booksellers, publishers, and other literary experts around the country. She has an MFA from American University, and on occasion teaches a course there on contemporary literature. (2004, 2005)

ROBERT STONE has received most of the accolades and awards possible for a contemporary novelist, and his books have enjoyed commercial success as well as critical acclaim. He won the Faulkner Foundation prize for his first novel, *A Hall of Mirrors* (1967), which was followed by *Dog Soldiers* (1974), *A Flag for Sunrise* (1981), *Children of Light* (1986), *Outerbridge Reach* (1992), and *Damascus Gate* (1998). His seventh novel, *Bay of Souls*, scheduled for publication in April 2003, has been described by *Kirkus Reviews* as “a small masterpiece,” one distinguished by “Faulknerian intensity and a narrative economy reminiscent of Hemingway.” (2003)

PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN is a professor of English and director of the Program for Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She has edited two books, *Pedagogy in the Age of Politics* and *Methods and Methodology in Composition Research*, and is currently writing a book on narrative knowledge and the cultural subconscious. She has a strong pedagogical interest in Walker Percy, using his novels in her classes to illustrate that writing is about the search for meaning. (2004)

ANNALYN SWAN is the author, with Mark Stevens, of *De Kooning: An American Master*, winner of the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award, the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, and other major awards. A native of Biloxi, Mississippi, Swan is a former staff writer at *Time* and an award-winning critic and senior arts editor at *Newsweek*. She has written for the *New Republic*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and the *New York* magazine. Three years ago, she founded, with longtime editor Peter Bernstein, ASAP Media, a book, magazine, and internet development company. (2006)

CLIFTON TAULBERT is the author of eight books, including the autobiographical *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, *The Last Train North*, *Watching Our Crops Come In*, and *The Journey Home*. Raised in Glen Allen, Mississippi, Taulbert writes and lectures about the segregated South. He currently lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame in 2000. (2003)

JUSTIN TAYLOR is the author of *The Gospel of Anarchy* and the story collection *Everything Here Is the Best Thing Ever*. He also edited the short fiction anthology *The Apocalypse Reader* and coedited *The Word Made Flesh: Literary Tattoos from Bookworms Worldwide*. (2011)

MILDRED D. TAYLOR is the author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*; *Mississippi Bridge*; *The Road to Memphis*; and five other award-winning novels for young readers. Among her awards are a Newbery Medal, four Coretta Scott King Awards, two Christopher Awards, a *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award, and the inaugural \$25,000 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature. (2004)

TAYLOR GROCERY BAND is the house band for *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a show that brings to the stage two of Oxford, Mississippi's greatest thriving arts – literature and music. Each Thursday evening during the spring and fall school semester at Off Square Books, host Jim Dees and the Taylor Grocery Band welcome visiting authors and musicians for an hour of readings and performance. The show is broadcast live in Oxford and surrounding communities and later aired on the radio stations of the Mississippi Broadcasting Networks. Taylor Grocery Band's founding members Bryan Ledford and Justin Showah are regularly joined by Ted Gainey, Jeff Coburn, Max Williams, Ed Dye, and Cary Hudson. (2004)

MICHAEL THOMAS received his BA from Hunter College and his MFA from Warren Wilson College. He is the author of *Man Gone Down*, winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *A Public Space*, and the anthology *The Book of Dads*. He teaches at Hunter College and lives in Brooklyn. (2012)

WRIGHT THOMPSON, a senior writer for ESPN.com and *ESPN The Magazine*, covers topics ranging from baseball to bullfighting. In 2010 he set a record by appearing for the fifth consecutive year in the annual *Best American Sports Writing* with "Shadow Boxing," about the fate of Jim Robinson, who fought Muhammed Ali in Miami in 1961. Thompson's latest honor is a Media Eclipse Award for "The Legend of Zanyatta," the super mare who was just retired after an epic career with nineteen victories in twenty races. (2011)

MARGARET BRADHAM THORNTON is the editor of Tennessee Williams's *Notebooks*, recently published by Yale University Press. Her work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, the *Seattle Review*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, and *World Literature*. She is a writer and independent scholar based in Bedminster, New Jersey. (2007)

BARATUNDE THURSTON is a politically-active, technology-loving comedian from the future. He cofounded the black political blog, *Jack and Jill Politics* and serves as Director of Digital for *The Onion*. He has written for *Vanity Fair* and the *UK Independent*, hosted Popular Science's Future Of on Discovery Science and appears on cable news regularly to say smart things in funny ways. His first book, *How To Be Black*, was published in February 2012 by Harper Collins. (2012)

RICHARD TILLINGHAST is the author of ten collections of poems and three nonfiction works, including *Damaged Grandeur*, a critical memoir of Robert Lowell, with whom he studied at Harvard, and *Finding Ireland: A Poet's Explorations of Irish Literature and Culture*. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Tillinghast now lives in South Tipperary, Ireland. (2011)

WELLS TOWER has published short stories in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *McSweeney's*, the *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. His first collection, *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*, was published in 2009. He divides his time between Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Brooklyn. (2010)

YANA TOKAREVA is a poet, translator, and singer/songwriter. Born in Moscow in 1976, she graduated from the Historical-Philological Faculty at the Russia State University for the Humanities with a major in American culture and a minor in Italian. She has taught English at that same university and worked as a translator and interpreter, translating literary works mostly from English to Italian, but also some poems and songs from Yiddish, German, and Swedish. She is a literary editor of Internet sites devoted to British art, Jewish books, and Japanese films. Her poetry collection *Warm Clothes* won a Moscow Score literary prize for best first book. (2007)

NICHELE D. TRAMBLE is the author of *The Dying Ground: A Hip-Hop Noir Novel*, a critically acclaimed debut that was short-listed for the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation's Legacy Award. *The Dying Ground* introduced Maceo Redfield, a young African American detective whose adventures in Oakland, California, are continued in *The Last King* and *The Lost Way Back*. Tramble's articles, reviews, and short stories have appeared in *Washington Post Book World*, *Modern Short Story*, *Santa Clara Review*, *Fade-In Magazine*, *Dysonna*, and the *Oakland Post*. (2008)

NATASHA TRETHERWEY is the author of three poetry collections – *Domestic Work*, *Bellocq's Ophelia*, and *Native Guard* – for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. Her latest book, *Beyond Katrina*, is a moving and personal portrait of her home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and her family's struggle to recover from the hurricane's devastation. She holds the Phillis Wheatly Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University. (2006, 2011)

ALLEN TULLOS is senior editor of the peer-reviews, multimedia, Internet journal *Southern Spaces* and associate professor of American Studies at Emory University where he codirects the Graduate Certificate Program in Digital Scholarship and Media Studies. His most recent book is *Alabama Getaway: The Political Imaginary and the Heart of Dixie*. His book *Habits of Industry* won the Charles S. Sydnor Award of the Southern Historical Association. From 1982 until 2004 he was editor of the journal *Southern Changes*. Tullos was co-producer and sound recordist of the award-winning documentary films *Born for Hard Luck: Peg Leg Sam Jackson*, *Being a Joines: A Life in the Brushy Mountains* and *A Singing Stream: A Black Family Chronicle*, in the American Traditional Culture Series, and he is producer of the documentary *Tommie Bass*. (2012)

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*. (2003, 2005)

DARLENE HARBOUR UNRUE is the author of *Katherine Anne Porter: The Life of an Artist*, *Understanding Katherine Anne Porter*, and *Truth and Vision in Katherine Anne Porter's Fiction*. She is a professor of English at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. (2006)

KATRINA VANDENBERG is a poet whose work has appeared in *American Scholar*, *Iowan Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and other magazines. Her first book of poems, *Atlas*, was published by Milkweed Editions in 2004. She was a 1999-2000 Fulbright fellow to the Netherlands and is currently the visiting writer at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. (2005)

OLYMPIA VERNON is the author of two critically acclaimed novels. Her first novel, *Eden*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and won the 2004 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her second novel, *Logic*, was nominated for the 2005 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award. Her third novel, *A Killing in This Town*, concerns the story of a young boy who must, upon his coming of age, lynch a black man in order to be initiated into the KKK. Vernon is the winner of the 2005 Governor's Award in the Professional Artist category for the state of Louisiana. (2006)

JON VOELKEL lived in Peru, Costa Rica, and Colombia before going to college in Minneapolis and to business school in Barcelona. After working in advertising agencies in Spain, Holland and England, he started an agency in London with four other partners, one of whom became his wife. In 2001 the Voelkels moved to rural Vermont and began work on *Middlenworld*, a collaborative book based on his childhood memories. Together, he and his wife, Pamela, publish under the name J&P Voelkel. (2011)

PAMELA CRAIK VOELKEL grew up in the north of England and, after graduating from Leeds University, went to London where, after stints reviewing books, writing catalogs, and penning speech bubbles for photo-romances, she became an advertising copywriter. As creative director of Craik Jones Watson Mitchell Voelkel, she helped the agency win numerous creative awards. After moving to Vermont in 2001, she and her husband collaborated on *Middlenworld*, the first of their Jaguar Stones trilogy. (2011)

TRICIA WALKER, a native of Mississippi, is a performer and songwriter who has played with and penned songs for Faith Hill and other Nashville stars, toured extensively, and made numerous television appearances. As proprietor of Big Front Porch Productions, she has produced five of her own CD projects and performs her one-woman show, "The Heart of Dixie." She lived in Nashville from 1980 until August 2006, when she became director of the Delta Music Institute in Cleveland, Mississippi. (2008)

JERRY W. WARD, JR. is Distinguished Scholar and Professor of English and African World Studies at Dillard University in New Orleans. He is a widely published poet and critic whose numerous publications include *Redefining American Literary History*, *Black Southern Voices*, and *Trouble the Water: 250 Years of African American Poetry*. His newly published memoir, *The Katrina Papers*, combines intellectual autobiography, personal narrative, political/cultural analysis, spiritual journal, literary history, and poetry. (2008, 2009)

JESMYN WARD grew up in Delisle, Mississippi, the setting for her first two novels, *Where the Line Bleeds*, and the forthcoming *Salvage the Bone*. She holds an MFA from the University of Michigan and bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University, where she was awarded a Stegner Fellowship in the Creative Writing Program. Ward is the 2010-2011 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2011)

ASHLEY WARLICK is the author of three novels: *The Distance from the Heart of Things*, *The Summer after June*, and *Seek the Living*, all published by Houghton Mifflin. The youngest winner of the Literary Fellowship, she currently teaches in the MFA program at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina. (2005)

NORMA WATKINS grew up in Mississippi during the Civil Rights years. She has a PhD in English and an MFA in Creative Writing. She is Professor Emerita at Miami Dade College, where she taught for twenty-six years and held an Endowed Chair. She now teaches creative writing at College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, California. Her memoir, *The Last Resort: Taking the Mississippi Cure*, was published by University Press of Mississippi in 2011. The *Washington Post* called it “Splendid in every way.” (2012)

BRAD WATSON was born in Meridian, Mississippi. He received the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for the story collection *Last Days of the Dog-Men* and was a finalist for the National Book Award for his first novel, *The Heavens of Mercury*. He is currently John and Renée Grisham Visiting Writer at the University of Mississippi. (2005)

JAY WATSON, associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi, is the author of *Forensic Fictions: The Lawyer Figure in Faulkner* and numerous essays on Faulkner, Freud, legal theory, Lillian Smith, and Erskine Caldwell. He was Visiting Fullbright Professr of English at the University of Turku and at Abo Akademi University, Finland, 2002-2003. He is editor of the newly published *Conversations with Larry Brown*, a collection of interviews Brown gave between 1988 and 2004. (2007, 2010)

BEN WEAVER is a Minnesota singer-songwriter whose songs have been referred to as “gutter pulpit sermons.” Larry Brown called him “an American original whose voice and guitar are matched only by the power of his words. His songs are an incredible, haunting gift of music.” (2007)

JOSH WEIL was born in the Appalachian Mountains of rural Virginia to which he returned to write the novellas in his first book, *The New Valley*. A *New York Times* Editors Choice, *The New Valley* won the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from The American Academy of Arts and Letters; the New Writers Award from the GLCA; a “5 Under 35” Award from the National Book Foundation; and was shortlisted for the Library of Virginia’s literary award in fiction. The recipient of fellowships and awards from the Fullbright Foundation, the Dana Foundation, the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers’ Conferences, the James Merrill House, and the MacDowell Colony, he has taught at Bowling Green State University as the Distinguished Visiting Writer and been the Tickner Writer-in-Residence at Gilman School. Currently living and teaching in Oxford, Mississippi, as the University of Mississippi’s John and Renée Grisham Emerging Southern Writer, he is at work on a novel. (2012)

RANDY WAYNE WHITE is the author of *Everglades*, *Twelve Mile Limit*, *Shark River*, *Ten Thousand Islands*, *The Mangrove Coast*, *North of Havana*, the *New York Times* best-selling *Tampa Burn*, and other novels in a series featuring marine biologist Doc Ford. The twelfth novel in the series, *Dead of Night*, was released this spring. White is also the author of a collection of essays and articles, *Batfishing in the Rainforest*, and wrote and narrated an award-winning documentary film, *The Gift of the Game*, about Little League teams founded by Ernest Hemingway before Castro came to power in Cuba. (2005)

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 has written for many national magazines, including *Newsweek* and the *New Republic*. He is coauthor, with Jim McDougal, of *Arkansas Mischief: The Birth of a National Scandal* and author of *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey through Events that Shaped the Modern South*. Wilkie holds the Kelly

Gene Cook Chair of Journalism at the University of Mississippi. In 2005 he received a special award for excellence in nonfiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

CRYSTAL WILKINSON is the author of two books, *Blackberries*, *Blackberries* and *Water Street*. Her work has appeared in various literary journals and in several anthologies, including *Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes: Back Talk from an American Region* and *Gumbo: Stories by Black Writers*. She is currently writer in residence at Eastern Kentucky University. (2003)

DANIEL E. WILLIAMS is Professor of American Literature and Creative Writing at Texas Christian University. He is the editor of *Pillars of Salt: An Anthology of Early American Criminal Narratives* and coeditor of *Liberty's Captives: Narratives of Confinement in the Print Culture of the Early Republic*. A specialist in early American literature, he also teaches writing and contemporary American fiction. From 1985 to 2003 he was a professor at the University of Mississippi, where in 2000 he taught the first-ever seminar on Barry Hannah. (2010)

RANDALL WILLIAMS is a writer, editor, publication designer, and book publisher. He has been a writer and editor for magazines and newspapers (among them the *Birmingham News*, *Alabama Journal*, *Southern Exposure*, *Southern Changes*) in Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. His articles have been published in more than two hundred newspapers and magazines and in several anthologies and literary and historical journals. He is the author or coauthor of three books. Williams worked for a decade at the Southern Poverty Law Center, where he was the founding director of the Klanwatch Project. He founded and from 1989 to 2000 was editor in chief of Black Belt Press. In 2000, he cofounded a new publishing house, NewSouth Books in Montgomery. He has edited and designed more than three hundred books. (2004)

PATRICIA WILLIS is curator of the Yale Collection of American Literature in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. Among the vast treasures in the collection are manuscripts, letters, photographs, and other materials on Zora Neale Hurston. (2008)

CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is Kelley Gene Cook Sr. Chair of History and Professor of Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920*, editor of *Religion in the South*, coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. His other publications include a collection of essays titled *Judgement and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis* and the forthcoming *Flashes of a Southern Spirit: Meanings of Spirit in the US South*. (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012)

JOY WILSON will graduate in May with an MFA in fiction from the University of Mississippi, where she is editor of the *Yalobusha Review*. She has worked with Barry Hannah, Tom Franklin, Shay Youngblood, David Galef, Michelle Richmond, and Cynthia Shearer on the completion of her first novel, *Places Like Home*, most of which she wrote in Oxford. Her fiction has appeared in *Quirk* and her poetry in *Zillab*. (2003)

DEBRA WINGER made her acting debut in *Wonder Woman* in 1977 and received Academy Award nominations as Best Actress for *Urban Cowboy*, *Officer and a Gentleman* and *Shadowlands*. She joined her husband, Arliss Howard, on screen in *Big Bad Love*, based on Larry Brown's collection of stories by that name. (2007)

LAUREN F. WINNER, former book editor for Beliefnet.com, is a regular reviewer for *Publishers Weekly* and a contributing editor for *Christianity Today*. Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Washington Post Book World*, and many other journals. She has degrees from Columbia and Cambridge Universities and is currently at work on her doctorate in the history of religion at Columbia. Algonquin Books recently published her memoir, *Girl Meets God: Searching for a Spiritual Identity*. (2003)

CHARLIE WINTON is the CEO and Publisher of Counterpoint and Soft Skull Press, which are two of the leading independent publishers in the United States. Previously Mr. Winton was the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Publishers Group West as well as Avalon Publishing Group. (2012)

PAUL YAMAZAKI is head buyer at San Francisco's landmark independent bookstore City Lights. He began his career there packing books in 1970 and celebrated his 40th year in 2010, when the store received *Publishers Weekly's* "bookseller of the year" award. Yamazaki attributes his longevity to the "amazing environment" created by poet and artist Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who founded the store in 1953, and Nancy J. Peters, author, editor, and co-owner of City Lights since 1984. (2011)

STEVE YARBROUGH is the author of eight books. His most recent novel, *Safe from the Neighbors*, was published by Knopf in January of 2010. It was a finalist for both the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for fiction and the Massachusetts Book Award. His 2006 novel *The End of California* was also a finalist for the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award. His novel *Prisoners of War* was a finalist for the 2005 PEN/Faulkner Award, and his 1999 novel *The Oxygen Man* won the California Book Award, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction, and the Mississippi Authors Award. His other books are the novel *Visible Spirits* and the collections of stories *Veneer*, *Mississippi History*, and *Family Men*. Steve is currently a professor in the Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing at Emerson College in Boston. (2012)

a native of the Mississippi Delta town of Indianola, has taught at California State University, Fresno since 1988. He was 1999-2000 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi, where he earned BA and MA degrees in English. He received an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arkansas. He won the California Book Award from the Commonwealth Club of California in 2000 and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award in Fiction in 2005. He has written four novels – *The Oxygen Man*, *Visible Spirits*, *Prisoners of War*, and *The End of California* – and three collections of stories. (2007, 2009, 2012)

STEVE YATES is assistant director/marketing director at University Press of Mississippi, and came to the Press as a publicist in 1998. Previously he was an assistant marketing manager at University of Arkansas Press. Yates is also the recipient of grants from the Arkansas Arts Council and the Mississippi Arts Commission, and his short stories have appeared in *Tri-Quarterly* and *Texas Review*. His novel, *Morkan's Quarry*, will be available in May 2010 from Moon City Press. (2010)

ETHEL YOUNG-MINOR is an assistant professor of English and Afro-American Studies at the University of Mississippi. She is coeditor of *Black Sermons*, a collection of African American sermons delivered from 1901 to 2000, and has published articles in the *College Language Association Journal* and *Women Studies International*. Her current research focuses on African American women in performance. (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)

SHAY YOUNGBLOOD is a poet, playwright, fiction writer, and screenwriter, author of *The Big Momma Stories*, the novels *Soul Kiss* and *Black Girl in Paris*, and *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*, which was optioned by Sidney Poitier for Columbia Pictures. Her other plays include *Amazing Grace*, *Talking Bones*, *Black Power Barbie*, and *Communism Killed My Dog*. She is the recipient of an Astraea Writers Award and a Pushcart Prize for fiction, a Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award, several NAACP Theater Awards, and numerous other awards. A native of Columbus, Georgia, she received a BA from Clark-Atlanta University and an MFA from Brown University and teaches creative writing at New York University. She was the 2002-2003 John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. (2003, 2007)

KAREN SPEARS ZACHARIAS is the author of *Hero Mama: A Daughter Remembers the Father She Lost in Vietnam – and the Mother Who Held Her Family Together*. Winner of the 2002 C. B. Bethen Award for Distinguished Feature Writing and other awards, she has lectured around the country at numerous veterans' events. Her commentary has appeared in the *New York Times*, on NPR's *All Things Considered*, and on public radio in Georgia and Oregon. (2005)

J. PEDER ZANE is the book review editor and books columnist for the *News and Observer* in Raleigh, North Carolina. His column has won several national honors, including the Distinguished Writing Award for Commentary from the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He contributed to and edited the essay collected *Remarkable Reads: 34 Writers and Their Adventures in Reading* and is editor of *The Top Ten: Writers Pick Their Favorite Books*. He serves on the Board of the National Book Critics Circle. (2008, 2009)

TATIANA ZIMA is a poet and “culture promoter,” as she calls herself. Born in 1968 in the port of Vanino, she currently lives in Vladivostok, a city in the Russian Far East. She has been extensively published by local and national literary magazines and is the author of the award-winning book *Brackets*. She is also a publisher of the Vladivostok alternative poetry collection *Fishes and Birds*. (2007)

JOYCE ZONANA is the author of *Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, an Exile's Journey*. She earned her BA at Brooklyn College and her PhD in English literature at the University of Pennsylvania, going on to teach at the University of Oklahoma, the University of New Orleans, Rowan University, and Borough of Manhattan Community College at the City University of New York. Her teaching and research interests have included Victorian literature feminist theory and women's literary history, postcolonial literature and theory, and autobiography. (2009)

OLGA ZONDBERG is a Moscow-based poet and fiction writer, author of the poetry collection *Seven Hours One Minute* and the prose collection *A Very Peaceful Story* and *The Winter Company of Year Zero*. She has worked as a manager and a chemistry teacher, and currently works as an editor/corrector for a consulting firm devoted to new technologies called Consultant Plus. (2008)