

BUILDING SPACES OF FREEDOM

THE **SOCIETY** FOR THE **STUDY** OF **SOUTHERN LITERATURE**
2026 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



MARCH 28-31, 2026

Fisk University
1000 17th Avenue North
Nashville, TN

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nashville occupies the traditional lands of the Cherokee, Shawnee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek peoples—homelands that, between 800 to 1500 C.E., housed a sprawling Indigenous metropolis that far outsized its European counterparts in Paris or London, which is today called the “Buried City.” In 1838, most of the estimated 15,000 Cherokee people forcibly removed to Indian Territory traveled through Nashville, as did more than 500 Creek people and an undetermined number of enslaved African American people. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Route passes through downtown Nashville.

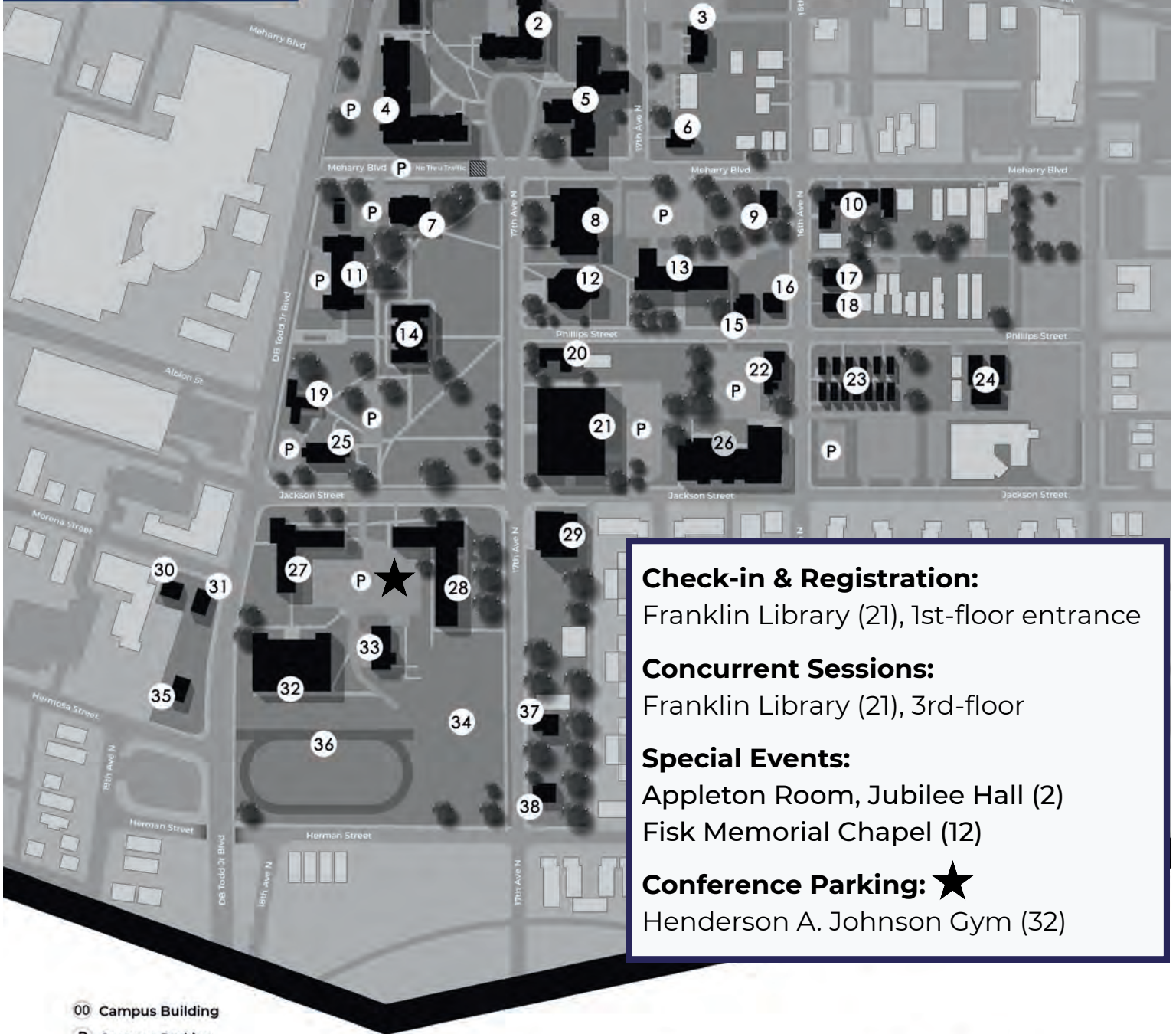
The Society for the Study of Southern Literature acknowledges the Indigenous peoples who continue to work, create, produce knowledge on, and nurture the land and waters where we are located, as well as the contributions of the peoples who do this work in diaspora. We acknowledge all of the Indigenous peoples who were affected by the trauma of southeastern Removal.

Table of Contents

Fisk Campus Map	4
SSSL 2026 Conference Leadership	5
SSSL Executive Council & Beale Davis Committee	6
ESO Executive Council	7
2026 Richard Beale Davis Awards	8
SSSL Awards	10
Marquee Events	11
Get to Know the ESO & Election Info	14
Conference Schedule	15
Index of Participants	16
Book Exhibitors	28
Sponsors of SSSL 2026	31
College Language Association 2026 Conference	39



CAMPUS MAP



Check-in & Registration:
Franklin Library (21), 1st-floor entrance

Concurrent Sessions:
Franklin Library (21), 3rd-floor

Special Events:
Appleton Room, Jubilee Hall (2)
Fisk Memorial Chapel (12)

Conference Parking: ★
Henderson A. Johnson Gym (32)

- 00 Campus Building
- P Campus Parking

- 1 Crosthwaite Hall
- 2 Jubilee Hall
- 3 Faculty/ Staff Townhomes
- 4 Student Housing
- 5 Mary D. Shane Hall
- 6 John Wesley Work II House
- 7 Carnegie Hall
- 8 Adam K. Spence Hall
- 9 Boyd House
- 10 James & John Burrus Hall
- 11 Talley-Brady Hall
- 12 Fisk Memorial Chapel
- 13 Park-Johnson Hall

- 14 Cravath Hall
- 15 W. E. B. Dubois Honors Center
- 16 Richardson Alumni House
- 17 University Housing 1
- 18 University Housing 2
- 19 Little Theater (Civil War Barracks)
- 20 Harris Music Building
- 21 John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library
- 22 John Lewis Social Justice Center
- 23 Custom Student Housing
- 24 University Housing
- 25 Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery
- 26 Future Home: New Science Building

- 27 Du Bois Hall
- 28 New Livingstone Hall
- 29 Roland Parrish Career Center
- 30 University Housing
- 31 Arna Bontemps House
- 32 Henderson A. Johnson Gymnasium
- 33 Biology Labs
- 34 Track and Field
- 35 James Weldon Johnson House
- 36 Track and Field
- 37 Talley-Curb House
- 38 Sneed-Rock House



Thanks to Our 2026 Conference Leaders

2024-2026 President

Robert Jackson
University of Tulsa

2026 Program Coordinator

Stephanie Rountree
University of North Georgia

2026-2028 President-elect

Scott Romine
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

2022-2024 Past President

Sherita Johnson
Pennsylvania State University

ESO President

Savannah DiGregorio
Arizona State University

Secretary/Treasurer

Harper Strom
Georgia State University

Technology and Media Committee

Allison Rittmayer
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Arman Musaji
Graphic Designer

Kelly Vines
UX Accessibility Specialist

Laura Wilson
University of St Andrews

2026 Program Committee

Katharine A. Burnett
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Joanna Davis-McElligatt
University of North Texas

Savannah DiGregorio
Arizona State University

Garrett Fuller
Independent Scholar and Artist

Jennifer Hayes
Tennessee State University

Magana Kabugi
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Allison Rittmayer
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

LaTanya Rogers
Fisk University

Scott Romine
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Stephanie Rountree
University of North Georgia

Harper Strom
Georgia State University

Laura Wilson
University of St Andrews



Thanks to the SSSL Executive Council

Matthew Blasi (2024-2026)
Centenary College

Joanna Davis-McElligatt (2025-2027)
University of North Texas

Allison Harris (2024-2026)
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Jarvis McInnis (2025-2027)
Duke University

Stephanie Rountree (2024-2026)
University of North Georgia

Danielle Swanson (2024-2026)
Georgia Highlands College

Katherine Henninger (2025-2027)
Louisiana State University

Carrie Tippen (2024-2026)
Chatham University

Jennifer Morrison (2024-2026)
Xavier University of Louisiana

Jennifer L. Hayes (2025-2027)
Tennessee State University

Amy K. King (2024-2026)
Tuskegee University

Allison Rittmayer (2025-2027)
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Special Thanks to the Richard Beale Davis Award Committee!

Lisa Hinrichsen
University of Arkansas

David Davis
Mercer University

Catherine Kodat
Marist University

MEET YOUR ESO COUNCIL



Savannah DiGregorio
President
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University



Christina Xan
Vice President
Assistant Professor
Northwestern Oklahoma State



Sterling Neill
Secretary
Dual PhD Student
Georgia State & Mercer



Yesmina Khedhir
Membership Chair
Postdoc
University of Debrecen



Laura Wilson
Alt/Ac Ind. Scholar Support
Research Fellow
University of St Andrews

2026 Richard Beale



The Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters honors a writer or scholar who has made distinguished lifetime contributions to southern letters. The award is named after the Society's first president, Richard Beale Davis, who served in that position from 1969-1970. The award winners for 2026 are John T. Matthews and John Lowe, selected by committee members Lisa Hinrichsen (University of Arkansas), David Davis (Mercer University), Catherine Kodat (Marist University).

John T. Matthews

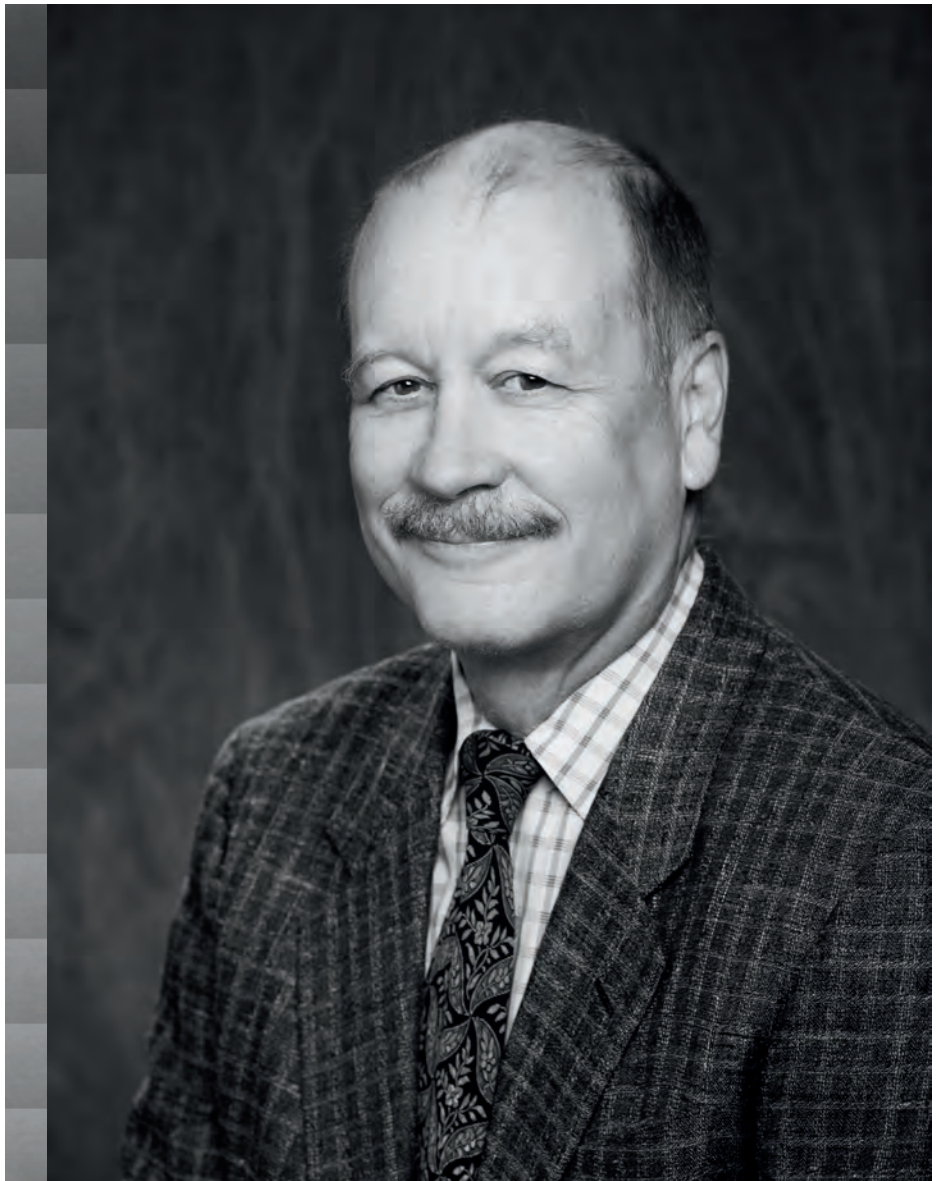
John T. Matthews brought literary theory to Southern literary criticism. Beginning with *The Play of Faulkner's Language* (1982), he engaged post-structural theory, later expanding his reach to include insights drawn from the Frankfurt School and New Historicism, to analyze how Faulkner produced meaning, publishing over the course of his career three more books—*The Sound and the Fury: Faulkner and the Lost Cause* (1991), *William Faulkner: Seeing through the South* (2009), and *Hidden in Plain Sight; Slave Capitalism in Poe, Hawthorne, and Joel Chandler Harris* (2020)--and editing three collections (*The Blackwell Companion to the Modern American Novel: 1900-1950* [2009], *William Faulkner in Context* [2015], and *The New Cambridge Companion to William Faulkner* [2015]) that interrogate the work of Faulkner and other southern writers. In 2016 he delivered the Lamar Memorial Lecture at Mercer University. As a professor of English at Boston University, he supervised many graduate students and became known for his generous mentorship. A past president of The William Faulkner Society and a founding co-editor of *The Faulkner Journal*, he served as President of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature from 2015 to 2016, and chaired the 2016 conference in Boston.

Davis Award Recipients

John Wharton Lowe

John Lowe (1945-2023) focused on the South beyond the South. He was the Barbara Methvin Professor of English at the University of Georgia and the Robert Penn Warren Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Louisiana State University. In works such as *Calypso Magnolia: The Crosscurrents of Caribbean and Southern Literature* (2016), his scholarship connected the U.S. South to Afro-Caribbean influences. His other notable books include *Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston's Cosmic Comedy* (1994), *Conversations with Ernest Gaines* (1995), *Bridging Southern Cultures: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (2005),

Louisiana Culture from the Colonial Era to Katrina (2008), *Approaches to Teaching Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God and Other Works* (2009), *Approaches to Teaching Gaines's The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman and Other Works* (2019), *Summoning Our Saints: The Poetry and Prose of Brenda Marie Osbey* (2019), and *Black Hibiscus: African Americans and the Florida Imaginary* (2024). In 2017, Lowe's *Calypso Magnolia: The Crossroads of Caribbean and Southern Literature* was chosen for SSSL's C. Hugh Holman Award as the best book of literary scholarship or literary criticism in the field of southern literature. Most recently, Professor Lowe completed an authorized biography of Ernest J. Gaines that will extend his scholarly legacy for years to come. Over the course of his distinguished career, Dr. Lowe mentored generations of graduate students with extraordinary care and intellectual generosity, and he believed in spaces where emerging scholars felt seen and supported. To study under his direction was to encounter not only a brilliant intellect but also a deeply humane teacher who believed that scholarship was, at its best, a shared and sustaining practice. The imprint of his mentorship endures in the work and lives of the many students he inspired. He served as President of the SSSL from 2009-2010.



SSSL Award Winners

Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Prize

For the best article on southern literature published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Scott Hess

2021 Rubin Prize Winner

"Cedar Hill: Frederick Douglass's Literary Landscape and the Racial Construction of Nature," *American Literature* 93.4 (2021), 71-599.

Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi

2022 Rubin Prize Winner

"Afro-Asian Intimacies Across Southern Cartographies: Race, Sex, and Gender in Toni Morrison's *Home* and Yusef Komunyakaa's *Dien Cai Dao*," *American Studies* 61.3 (Fall 2022), 97-120.

Graduate Student Travel Awards

Supporting graduate students traveling to present at SSSL 2026.

Trudier Harris Award

Anthony Gottlich

Peggy Whitman Prenshaw Award

Ami Hanna-Huff

Latrice Johnson

Dorothy Scura Award

Evan Leonhard

Noel Polk Award

Jacob Fennell

Abigail Ross

SSSL 2026

Marquee Events

Saturday, March 28, 2026

6:00pm: Opening Plenary & Award Ceremony (13)

Featuring a Reading by Alice Randall

7:30pm: Opening Night Reception (13)

Sponsored by *Mississippi Quarterly*

Sunday, March 29, 2026

1:00pm: Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable (22)

Honoring John T. Matthews

2:30pm: Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable (23)

Honoring John Wharton Lowe

4:30pm: Sunday Afternoon Plenary (24)

Featuring Dana A. Williams

“Geographies of Becoming:

Toni Morrison and the Politics of Place”

Monday, March 30, 2026

1:30pm: Monday Afternoon Plenary (36)

Afterlives of the Plantation & HBCU Archives:

A Conversation Between

Jarvis C. McInnis and Magana Kabugi

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

11:45am: SSSL General Business Meeting (53)

All attendees are welcome.



OPENING NIGHT PLENARY
FEATURING A READING BY

ALICE RANDALL

APPLETON ROOM
JUBILEE HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
6:00 TO 7:30 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



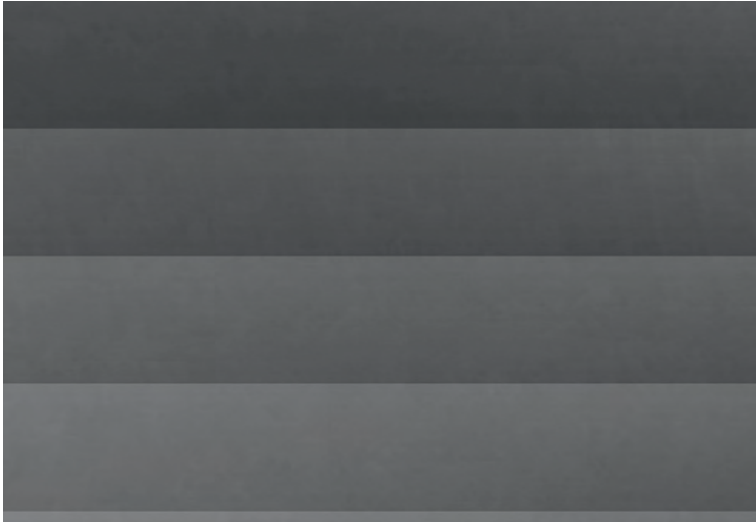
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
PLENARY

DANA A. WILLIAMS

"GEOGRAPHIES OF
BECOMING:
TONI MORRISON & THE
POLITICS OF PLACE"

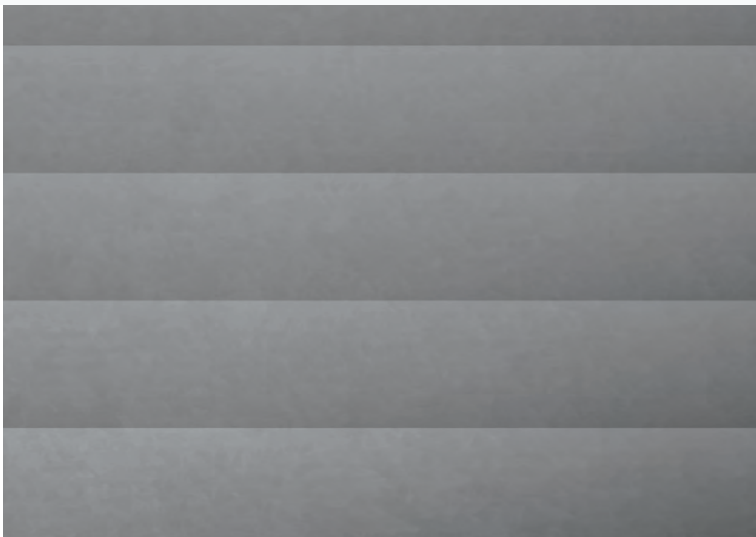
FISK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
4:30 TO 6:00 PM

AFTERLIVES OF THE PLANTATION **& HBCU ARCHIVES**



A CONVERSATION
BETWEEN
JARVIS C. MCINNIS
AND
MAGANA KABUGI

APPLETON ROOM
JUBILEE HALL
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026
1:30 to 2:50 pm





Emerging Scholars Organization

The Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO) was established in 2014 as an affiliate of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Our mission is to foster the careers of graduate students, recent PhDs, lecturers, adjunct/visiting/assistant professors, and scholars new to the field of southern studies.

Reasons to Join

The ESO offers members multiple ways to get involved in southern studies including:

- Opportunities to meet and collaborate with other emerging scholars and SSSL members
- Conference panels organized by and for ESO members
- Professional events to support emerging scholars and beginning faculty
- Newsletters with member news, relevant CFPs, and other southern studies information



Scan to Join

ESO Executive Council Elections: Nominations by May 1, 2026

President

Guides the vision of ESO, participates in SSSL Executive Council meetings, serves as Past President Advisor for following council

Vice President

Coordinates initiatives, manages conference planning

Secretary

Organizes EC scheduling, preserves institutional memory, develops ESO online presence

Membership Chair

Leads recruitment efforts, facilitates ESO Mentorship Pods, maintains ESO listserv

Ad hoc Members

Articulate their own roles. Previous examples include: Decolonizing Initiatives, Publishing and Advocacy, Pedagogy Resources, Professionalization, Alt Ac/Independent Scholar Support Rep



**Nominations for Executive Council are due May 1, 2026.
Self-nominations encouraged | No experience necessary
Scan the QR Code to Submit!**



sssl.org/es0



southernlitorg@gmail.com



**OPEN
ACCESS**

Franklin Library
3rd Floor Foyer

**Maker's Space
Entire Conference**

Create a southern studies zine through collage, drawing, and mixed media to define southern studies.

**2:30-
3:50PM**

Franklin Library
Room 317

**Book Editors Workshop (5)
Saturday, March 28th**

Gain insights from editors on writing a book proposal and selecting the right press for your first scholarly manuscript.

**8:00-
8:45AM**

Franklin Library
Starbucks

**Coffee Mixer
Sunday, March 29th**

An informal space for emerging and established scholars to connect over coffee, conversation prompts, and games.

**8:45-
10:05AM**

Franklin Library
3rd Floor Foyer

**Fisk Special Collections & Archives (29)
Monday, March 30th**

Join us for a tour of Fisk University's Special Collections and Archives. Led by Special Collections librarian Connor Joseph. Sign-up at registration. First come, first served.

**10:15-
11:35AM**

Franklin Library
Room 322

**Southern Environmental Humanities (34)
Monday, March 30th**

This panel positions the U.S. South as a critical site for the environmental humanities, exploring creaturely histories, environmental harm, and regionally grounded forms of ecological knowledge.

**3:00-
4:20PM**

Franklin Library
Room 322

**Building Spaces of Freedom (40)
Monday, March 30th**

This panel considers "emergence" not merely as transition but as a form of spatial and methodological world-building. What does it mean to carve out space in a profession structured by precarity, scarcity, and institutional contradiction? How do early-career scholars reinterpret or refuse inherited traditions? How does southern studies—across literature, media, history, cultural studies, performance, digital humanities, or interdisciplinary approaches—help us reimagine academic spaces?

**ESO
EVENTS**

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature

2026 Conference Schedule

Fisk University, Nashville, TN

Saturday, March 28, 2026

✧ Conference Registration & Book Exhibitors

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM | Franklin Library, 1st Floor Entrance

ESO Makers Space and Unbannable Library Exhibit

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

1. Educational Spaces of Freedom

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Thadious Davis, University of Pennsylvania

- A Tougaloo Renaissance: Exploring an HBCU Literary Archive, Latrice Johnson, University of Mississippi
- From Witness to Freedom: Black Women Education Leaders, Racial Battle Fatigue, and the Work of Liberation in White-Led Charter Schools, LaTrina M. Johnson, WGB Collective
- Disrupting the Disruptors: Youth Literary Production as Resistance to Restrictive Southern Education Laws, Kourtney Frye, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- A Seat in Academia: HBCUs, Rural Black Students, and Educational Belonging in the Black South, Shanice Lyons, Livingstone College

2. Jim Crow Modernism

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa

- The Maternal Bodies of Jim Crow Modernism: Black and White Women and Literary Procreation, Emily Lutenski, Appalachian State University
- Bad Boys Make Good Roads: Incarceration and Infrastructure in the U.S. South, David A. Davis, Mercer University
- "Still a Son of Fisk": Du Bois, Fisk University, and *The Education of Black People*, Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa

3. C19 Souths

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Jonathan Beecher Field, Clemson University

- The Tragedy of William McIntosh: Public Memory Culture and the Aestheticization of Native American Removal, Patrick M. Erben, University of West Georgia
- "A human medley" in New Orleans: Joseph Holt Ingraham's *The South-West by a Yankee* (1835), Robert C. Petersen, Middle Tennessee State University

4. Fleeting Moments and Wonderful Weirdness in Welty, sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

- Lithophanes and Keraunography: The Incandescence of Great Aunt Mashula, Melissa Fox, Independent Scholar
- "[B]y her own desire": Spilled Milk in Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom* and *The Golden Apples*, Katie Frye, Pepperdine University
- "She Came up By Herself": Why did Ellen and Euclid Beecham in Eudora Welty's *Losing Battles* Hitch and Cut Loose, Rebecca Mark, Rutgers University
- That Weird and Glimmering Girl in Eudora Welty's Woods, Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston
- Vehicles Out of Place and Time: Car Crashes in Eudora Welty's Short Fiction, Kaitlyn Smith, Kennesaw State University

Saturday, March 28, 2026

5. Book Editors Workshop, sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Sarah Shermeyen, Acquisitions Editor for the University of Georgia Press
- Aidan Watson-Morris, Acquisitions Editor for the University of Tennessee Press
- Riché Richardson, Cornell University and Co-Editor of UGA Press *New Southern Studies* Series
- Scott Romine, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Editor of the LSU Press *Southern Literary Studies* Series
- Stephanie Rountree, University of North Georgia and Co-Editor of the southern media trilogy with LSU Press: *Record, Document, Archive* (forthcoming 2026), *Remediating Region* (2021), and *Small-Screen Souths* (2017)

6. Memory and Literary Form

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Randall W. Harrell, Georgia Institute of Technology

- “Making Our Descent”: The American South in James Baldwin's Fiction, Ashley Beresch, University of Georgia
- Marginal Gender Praxis: Feminized Survival Theory within Kiese Laymon's *Heavy*, Bleah Patterson, University of North Texas
- “incomings” as Memory: Southern Childhood Sensibilities in Monique Truong's *Bitter in the Mouth*, Md Jalal Uddin, Louisiana State University
- “Memories are living things”: Forgetting, Memory-Making, and Remembering in Karen Russel's *The Antidote*, Bethany Weston, Texas Woman's University

7. Place and Space in Jesmyn Ward

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Jacob Fennell, University of Mississippi

- Out of the Narrative and Into the Wilderness: Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend*, Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University
- “This Place Binds and Blinds:” Black Interiority and the Metaphysical South in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, Kayla J. Frye, Auburn University
- Brothers in Distress: Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and the Southern Neogothic, Lee Rozelle, University of Montevallo

8. Southern Pedagogies: History, Memory, and Knowledge Equity

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Delia Steverson, University of Alabama

- Can't We Have that One Thing?: Teaching Mississippi as a Place of Pain and Pride in Black Southern Literature, Kemeshia Randle Swanson, Mississippi State University
- A Southern Gothic Orientation: Teaching Natasha Trethewey's “Pilgrimage”, Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University
- “WikiWarriors”: Teaching Wikipedia in the Age of Disinformation, Delia Steverson, University of Alabama

9. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper 200: Building Spaces of Freedom in Life and Literature

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University

- “Ring Out the Freedom Bell”: Frances Harper in the Reconstruction South, 1865-1867, Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University
- “Harbinger of Hope”: Frances Harper, Free Produce, and the Critique of Slavery's Capitalism, Cameron Sauers, Pennsylvania State University
- Frances Harper, Reconstruction, and the Precarity of Whiteness, Chaunce Reed, Pennsylvania State University
- (Re)Constructing Home in Frances E. W. Harper's *Minnie's Sacrifice*, Katie Painter, Pennsylvania State University

Saturday, March 28, 2026

10. Speculative Plantations

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Jonathan Beecher Field, Clemson University

- Pamela Colman Smith's Tarot Deck and the Global Circulation of Jamaican Folklore, Sabrina Lee, Calvin University
- Burning the Speculative Plantation in *Sinners* (U.S.) and *beDevil* (Australia), Amy K. King, Tuskegee University
- "A Minstrel Show with Teeth": Sinners' Musical Vampires, Erich Nunn, Auburn University

11. Robert Hayden

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Peter Schmidt, Swarthmore College

- Black Bottom Saints: A Reading, Alice Randall, Vanderbilt University
- "Life that transfigures many lives": A Legacy of Monuments and Transfigurations, Dolores Flores-Silva, Roanoke College, and Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida
- Robert Hayden and Julius Lester, Martin Haber

12. Musical South

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Jennie Lightweis-Goff

- Something to Say: Voice and Image from an OutKasted South, William C. Palmer, Andrew College
- Drifter's Escape; or, Is Bob Dylan Southern?, Matthew D. Sutton, Morehead State University
- Spaces of Funk: Tasting Palm-Wine & Brettanomyces, Elizabeth McQueen, Florida State University

13. Opening Plenary and Award Ceremony featuring

A Reading by Alice Randall

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Appleton, Jubilee Hall

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

Reception to Immediately Follow

hosted by



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MISSISSIPPI QUARTERLY
The Journal of Southern Cultures

End of Day Break

Sessions Resume Sunday Morning

Sunday, March 29, 2026

★ ESO Coffee Meet-Up

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM | Franklin Library Starbucks
The ESO invites all attendees to grab a coffee and join us for a morning mixer!

✧ Conference Registration & Book Exhibitors

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM | Franklin Library, 1st Floor Entrance

ESO Makers Space and Unbannable Library Exhibit

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

Coffee & Pastries Break

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

14. Black Freedom of Expression

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Latrice Johnson, University of Mississippi

- “Wade in the Water”: An Ecocritical Reading of Nineteenth-Century Black Spirituals, Matthew Lambert, University of Alabama
- Black Botanical Alchemy: Play & Plants in Plantation Gardens, Iyanna Hamby, Fisk University
- The Flying African: Fugitivity and Resistance in Black Southern Fiction, Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas

15. Welty’s Dissident Spaces I, sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Rebecca L. Harrison, University of West Georgia

- Confluence and/or Crossroads, David McWhirter, Texas A&M University
- The Queering and Emancipating Space of New Orleans in Faulkner’s *Mosquitoes* and Welty’s *The Optimist’s Daughter*, Pei-Wen Clio Kao, National Ilan University (Taiwan)

★ *Please join the Eudora Welty Society immediately following panel 15 as they present the Phoenix Award to Susan V. Donaldson, College of William and Mary!*

16. Armistead Maupin’s Transgressive Tales

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University

- Dear Mamas: Matrilineal Correspondence in the Life of Michael “Mouse” Tolliver, Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University
- Retrofitting a Trans South: Anna Madrigal and the Ongoing Tales of the City, Phillip “Pip” Gordon, University of Mississippi
- Armistead Maupin’s Southern Gothic Tales, Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University

17. New Books in Civil War Memory

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: K. Stephen Prince, Louisiana State University

- Requiem for Reconstruction: Black Countermemory and the Legacy of the Lowcountry’s Lost Political Generation, Robert Bland, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Disability, the Body, and Radical Intellectuals in the Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction, Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, CUNY
- Confederate Sympathies: Same-Sex Romance, Disunion, and Reunion in the Civil War Era, Andrew Donnelly, University of Memphis
- Counting the Cost of Freedom: The Fight Over Compensated Emancipation After the Civil War, Amanda Kleintop, Elon University

Sunday, March 29, 2026

18. Imagining Futures: Established & Emerging Scholars in Conversation

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

- Magana Kabugi, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Gina Caison, Georgia State University
- Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University
- Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University and ESO President

19. Welty's Dissident Spaces II, sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University

- Where Is Eugene's MacLain's Voice Coming From in Eudora Welty's "Music from Spain"?, Stephen M. Fuller, Middle Georgia State University
- The Intrusion of the Natural World in Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding*, Izzy Herring, University of Tennessee Knoxville
- Sites of Dissidence Glimpsed in Jackson Newspapers and Welty's Letters, Julia Eichelberger, College of Charleston

20. Southern Ecologies

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University

- Imagining Futurities Beyond Rescue: Ecological Crisis in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* and *Annihilation*, Jim Case, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Lafcadio Hearn's *Chita* and "the life of the coast." Ryan Charlton, Georgia State University
- Toxic Wonderland: Seriality, Stasis, and *Swamp Thing*, Brannon Costello, Louisiana State University
- River Plots: Hydroelectric Landscapes in T.S. Stribling's *Unfinished Cathedral*, Jency Wilson, University of North Alabama

21. Placemaking

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Garrett Fuller, Independent Scholar and Artist

- Nowhere Else to Be: Memphis as Makom, Meredith Heath Boulden, University of Memphis
- "Good Police Work": Surveillance, Spectacle, and Neoliberalism in Déjà Vu and Project NOLA's Facial-Recognition Cameras, John W. Byers, University of Mississippi
- Bobble Buns: Remembering Birmingham's Industrial Past at the Vulcan Gift Shop, Ashley Rattner, Jacksonville State University
- What's Happening in the "What's Happening in Auburn and Opelika" Facebook Group?: Feelings of Disgust and Anxiety Towards Queer Visibility, Remy Levy, Indiana University - Bloomington

Lunch Break: 11:35 AM to 1:00 PM

★ SSSL Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 11:45 AM to 12:50 PM | Franklin Library 317

**Sunday Afternoon Special Events Resume at 1:00 PM
in Fisk Memorial Chapel**

Sunday, March 29, 2026

22. Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable Honoring

John T. Matthews
Boston University

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

Chair: Catherine Kodat, Marist University

Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas

Peter Lurie, University of Richmond

Randy Boyagoda, University of Toronto

Catherine Kodat, Marist University

Mark Eaton, Claremont Graduate University

Jay Watson, University of Mississippi

23. Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable Honoring

John Wharton Lowe
University of Georgia

Awarded Posthumously and Accepted by

June Lowe

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

Chair: Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas

Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida

Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University

Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia

Thadious Davis, University of Pennsylvania

Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University

24. Sunday Afternoon Plenary

Dana A. Williams
Howard University

**“Geographies of Becoming:
Toni Morrison and the Politics of Place”**

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

End of Day Break

Sessions Resume Monday Morning

Monday, March 30, 2026

✧ Conference Registration & Book Exhibitors

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM | Franklin Library, 1st Floor Entrance

ESO Makers Space and Unbannable Library Exhibit

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

Coffee & Pastries Break

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

25. Text, Space and Memory: Italian Transnational Practices Across the Global and U.S. Souths

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Andrew Maginn, Middle Tennessee State University

- Primo Bartolini's Poetic Landscapes and the Making of Diasporic Freedom in the U.S. South, Matteo Brera, University of Padova / Seton Hall University
- Reclaiming Spaces: Italian Contributions to Public Memory in the American South, Alessia Martini, Sewanee: The University of the South
- From Coal Mines to City Hall: Tracing the Italian American Experience in Birmingham, Alabama, Alessandra Montalbano, University of Alabama

26. Black Literature and the South: Nature, the Environment, and Liberation

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Stephanie Rountree, University of North Georgia

- Honeybees, Pear Trees, and Hurricanes: Ecofeminism and the Southern Black Women's Experience in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Chloe Bruce, Spelman College
- Thing-Power in a Toxic South: How Oil and Methamphetamines Shape Life in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, Arya Sheth, Georgia College & State University
- The Myth of "Racial Progress" in Ralph Ellison's *The Invisible Man*, Riley Clements, University of North Georgia
- Eco-cosmopolitanism in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*, Dokubo Melford Goodhead, Fisk University

27. The Black Intellectual Tradition and Scholar-Activism at Fisk University

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University

- Lifting Every Voice: James Weldon Johnson, Fisk University, and the Legacy of the Black Intellectual Tradition, Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University
- Black Feminist Hermeneutics in Diane Nash's reflection on the Civil Rights Movement, Jennifer Hayes, Tennessee State University
- Harlem Renaissance (Anti-)Heroine: Nella Larsen's Feminist Critique of American Modernism, Olufemi Oyebade, Tennessee State University

28. Writing Back

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas

- Visions of Liberatory Queer Southern Spaces, Allison Rittmayer, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Mapping Dissident Spaces: Lillian Smith, South Today, and Laurel Falls Camp for Girls, Mae Miller Claxton, Western Carolina University
- "Ain't No Room for Nothing Else": Censorship, Stubbornness, and Renoir's *The Southerner*, Garrett Akins, Faulkner University
- The Unbannable Library, Paul Collins, Austin Peay State University

29. Emerging Scholars Workshop Event: Fisk University Special Collections and Archives

Visit, sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Meet in Foyer

Advance registration required, limited to emerging scholars. First come, first served.

Monday, March 30, 2026

30. They Came by This Way: How Fisk University Influenced Numerous Harlem Renaissance Writers

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Appleton, Jubilee Hall

Chair: La Tanya L. Rogers, Fisk University

- Tashaura Cummings, Fisk University
- Madison Hightower, Fisk University
- Marcus Hart, Fisk University
- Taylor Reed, Fisk University
- Amare' Woods, Fisk University

31. Labor and Liberation

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Robert Birdwell, Emory University

- James S. Allen: Organizer, Editor, Historian against Jim Crow Capitalism, Robert Birdwell, Emory University
- Temporary Spaces of Freedom: Southern Literature Pedagogy Behind Prison Walls, Ashley Massey, University of North Alabama
- Class Recognition in the Southern Strike Novel, Byron Miller, Louisiana State University
- Degrees Without Doors: Black Women, Labor Containment, and Workplace Unfreedom in State Institutions, Zaheerah Smith, Tennessee State University; Capella University

32. Contemporary Fiction

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana

- The Reimagined South in Padgett Powell's *Mrs. Hollingsworth's Men*, Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana
- And Now, for Something Completely Different?: Lee Smith's *Silver Alert*, Sharon E. Colley, Middle Georgia State University
- "Demon time" and Southern Literary Persistence of History in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*, Jill LeRoy-Frazier, East Tennessee State University
- Japanese American Detention and Sites of Memory in the U.S. South in Vivienne Schiffer's *Camp Nine*, Mariko Hiwatashi, Fukuoka University

33. Monsters, Magic, and Hauntings

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Jacqueline Pinkowitz, Mercer University

- From the South to the Global South: Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* & Magical Realism in the Americas, Jerry W. Carlson, The City College & Graduate Center CUNY
- "I don't know no such a lie": History, Metafiction, and the Marvelous Real in Randall Kenan's "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead," Jordan Dominy, Auburn University at Montgomery
- Father and Furtherer of New Beings: *Dracula*, *Fevre Dream*, and the Vampire in a Southern American Context, Simon P. Ross, University of Mississippi

34. Southern Environmental Humanities, sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Mutated Realisms and the Pesticide South, Anthony Gottlich, University of Mississippi
- Resurrecting the Mule: A Critical Return to the (Un)Dying Mule of the U.S. South, Anna Bills, Louisiana State University
- The Forgotten South: Storm-Haunted Narratives and Generational Trauma in *Salvage This World*, Maisie Smith, Baylor University
- Dr. John Anderson, the Affrilachian-Indigenous Ethnomedicine Specialist, Ami Hanna-Huff, University of Louisiana in Lafayette

35. Workshop Event: Fisk University Special Collections and Archives Visit

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Meet in Foyer

Advance registration required. All participants are welcome. First come, first served.

36. Monday Afternoon Plenary

***Afterlives of the Plantation & HBCU Archives:*
A Conversation Between
Jarvis C. McInnis and Magana Kabugi**

**Jarvis C. McInnis, Duke University
Magana Kabugi, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro**

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM | Appleton, Jubilee Hall

37. Flannery O'Connor and the Grotesque, sponsored by the Flannery O'Connor Society
Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Matt Bryant-Cheney, Georgia College and State University

- Tomfoolery: Enduring Echoes of Eliot in O'Connor's "The Enduring Chill," Benjamin Crace, Tennessee Tech University
- Light Leaves Water: Flannery O'Connor's Racism Through the Grotesque, Justice Yoo, University of California, Berkeley
- Flannery O'Connor's and Evelyn Scott's Narrow Houses, Rachel Bryan, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

38. "Again. Sadder than was. Again. Saddest of all. Again.": New Readings of *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) on the Eve its Centennial

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

- The Medieval Masculinity of Quentin Compson, Vincent Herrington, University of Southern Maine
- "Once A Bitch Always a Bitch": Jason Compson Can't Cope, Will Connell, University of Southern Maine
- The Haunting of Candace Compson: Threats of The Feminine in Southern Gothic, Bella Ciampi, University of Southern Maine
- Reading, Again: A Conversation with *The Faulkner Journal* Student Interns, Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

39. James Baldwin and the Making of the Self: Visibility, Fluidity, and Freedom

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Brooke Morrison, University of Southern Mississippi

- Structural Inequality and Hypervisibility from Childhood to Adulthood in Baldwin's *Little Man, Little Man* and Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*, Brooke Morrison, University of Southern Mississippi
- Transcending Binaries: Interpersonal Fluidity as Traced through the Life of James Baldwin, Madison Brown, University of Southern Mississippi
- Revising the Self Under Siege: Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk* as Act of Renewal, Rheagan Case, University of Southern Mississippi
- The Threshing Floor: Baldwin's Spiritual Freedom Reflected in His Secular Fiction, Peyton Phillips, University of Southern Mississippi

40. Building Spaces of Freedom, sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Christina Xan, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

- Adeem the Artist and Working-Class Country Music, Nathaniel Erickso-Hawlish, Victoria College
- Troubling the Crossroads of Orthodoxy: Monument and Mississippi in Natasha Trethewey's Poetry, Jeffrey Caliedo, Yale University
- The New Black Southern Gothic in MONUMENTS (2025), Jacqueline Pinkowitz, Mercer University
- The Regional Aestheticism of George B. Rose: Writing Art at the Arkansan *Fin de Siècle*, Evan Leonhard, Rutgers University

Monday, March 30, 2026

41. Center and/or Periphery?: The Unlikely Dissidence of the U.S. South and Central Eastern Europe

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Gina Caison, Georgia State University

- The Soviet South: *Porgy and Bess* in Leningrad, Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Independent Scholar
- “There’s only one good thing about a small town”: The Motif of Childhood, Memory, and Leaving in an American and in a Hungarian Contemporary Novel, Csaba Horváth, Károli Gáspár University
- “That Crate in Kentucky”: The Crown of St. Stephen, Jimmy Carter, and Attila Bartis’s *The End*, Gina Caison, Georgia State University

42. Medical Humanities Across Species

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 318

Co-Chairs: Sarah Hagaman, University of Rochester, and Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Racializing the Veterinary Humanities: Black Horsemen and the Limits of the Human, Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University
- “Health Is Your Right”: Community, Disability, and Health Justice in *The Salt Eaters* and *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, Sarah Hagaman, University of Rochester
- Suppressing (Con)science: The Medical Animalization of Women in Naomi Wallace’s “The Breach”, Sterling Neill, Georgia State University
- The Long Reach of Medical Apartheid from Montgomery’s “Mothers of Gynecology” to Dolen Perkins Valdez’s *Take My Hand*, Riché Richardson, Cornell University’s Africana Studies and Research Center

43. New Gothic, New Horror

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Garrett Fuller, Independent Scholar

- “Flames of Fortune”: The Horrific Risk of Casino Labor in *The Card Counter* and *Sinners*, Jacob Fennell, University of Mississippi
- Reckoning Gothic in the Southern Photography of RaMell Ross, Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University
- The Wendigo as Warning: Indigenous Gothic, Colonial Hunger, and the Limits of the Southern Gothic, Abigail Ross, University of Arkansas
- Faulkner, but with More Tentacles: Cosmic Horror in the South, Daniel Spoth, Eckerd College

44. Voicing Resistance/Embodying Hope: Language, Photography, Instruments

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University

- Lingual Multivalence and Textual Resistance in Gina Apostol’s *Insurrecto*, Jenna Grace Sciuto, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- “Virtual ghosts”: Photographic Haunting at the Contemporary Plantation, Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews
- Claude McKay’s *Banjo*: Resistance in American-African Instrumentation, Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University
- The South after “The South”: Desouthernizing Southern Futures, Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

End of Day Break
Sessions Resume Tuesday Morning

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

✧ Conference Registration & Book Exhibitors

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM | Franklin Library, 1st Floor Entrance

ESO Makers Space and Unbannable Library Exhibit

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

Coffee & Pastries Break

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM | Franklin Library, 3rd Floor Foyer

45. Revisiting the Southern Gothic I: Framing Southern Gothic

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University

- Todd Hagstette, University of South Carolina-Aiken
- Katie Henninger, Louisiana State University
- Harry Stecopoulos, University of Iowa
- Samuel Parler, Baylor University

46. Reckonings and Ambivalence: Flannery O'Connor and Race, sponsored by the Flannery O'Connor Society

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: Rachel Bryan, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

- From "Dear Brethren" to the "Pig Parlor," Flannery O'Connor and Frederick Douglass: A Dialectic of Humor and Violence, James Sisson, Middle Georgia State University
- Flannery O'Connor, "Skeptimentality," and Black Interiority in Brainard Cheney's *This is Adam*, Matt Bryant-Cheney, Georgia College and State University
- Artificial Banshees: Interrogating Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes with/in Flannery O'Connor and Martin McDonagh, Jessica Schnepf, Ave Maria University

47. Faulkner and the Problem of Progress

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Allison Rittmayer, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

- "If he ever sweats, he will die:" Southern Stagnation in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, Jackson Giesbrecht, University of Toronto
- The Influence of Early Twentieth-Century Science on Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha, Spencer Horner, University of Memphis
- "Not Ravaged, Not Invaded ... Though Reserved for Something More": Out-of-Place Caribbeans and American Imperialism in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*, Cameron Lee Winter, Georgia Institute of Technology
- A Queer Southern Literary Inheritance: From William Faulkner's Quentin Compson to Hayley Williams's "True Believer," Khirsten Doolan, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

48. Creative Spaces of Freedom: Southern Creative Writing from Southern Creative Writers

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana

- Have Small Heart and Braveness, Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana
- No Restaurants After the Revolution, Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Independent Scholar
- "Sunday" and "Chefs in a Blizzard," Emily Fontenot, Independent Scholar

49. Revisiting the Southern Gothic II: More-Than-Gothic Possibilities

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 317

Chair: Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University

- Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University
- Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas
- Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University
- Erich Nunn, Auburn University
- Scott Romine, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

50. Resisting the Plantation

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 318

Chair: David Squires, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- Sally Hemings's Plantation Dramaturgy, I.B. Hopkins, University of Texas at Austin
- The Shadows of Lindendale: Reading Hannah Crafts's *The Bondwoman's Narrative* as Plantation Fiction, Elizabeth Robertson, Louisiana State University
- Guns and Sugar: The Specter of Revolution on Postslavery Plantations, David Squires, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- The New Woman and Freedom in Kate Chopin's *At Fault*, Heather Ostman, SUNY Westchester Community College

51. Humanity and Medicine

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 321

Chair: Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas

- Barbara Kingsolver's Appalachia: Narratives of Disability in *Demon Copperhead*, Kara Adams, University of Michigan
- Deixis in the Time of Pain: Forming Southern Addiction from Rukeyser's *The Book of the Dead* to Lynn's *Mothman Apologia*, Tanner Crunelle, Cornell University
- Spiritualism in the Asylum: Contesting the Moral Treatment in the Patient Publication of the Alabama Insane Hospital 1872-1881, Garrett Bridger Gilmore, University of Alabama

52. Pop-Cultural Representation of HBCUs and the Black Collegiate Experience: A Panel Discussion

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 322

Chair: Jennifer Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana

- Reframing *School Daze*: Revising the Troubling Gender and Sexual Dynamics in an Iconic Film, Jennifer Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana
- HBCU Sound and Southern Cultural Memory in Beyoncé's *Homecoming*, Laura Oliver, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Who Left the Gate Open: On Protecting Black Greekdom in *Step Sisters*, Madison Hunter, University of Memphis

53. SSSL Membership General Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM | Franklin Library 317

All are welcome to a discussion of SSSL present and future organizational business

End of Conference

Please Travel Home Safely!

Index of Participants

Participant	Session	Participant	Session
Adams, Kara	51	Doolan, Khirsten	47
Akins, Garrett	28	Eaton, Mark	22
Anderson, Eric Gary	44, 49	Eichelberger, Julia	19
Atkinson, Ted	8, 16	Erben, Patrick M.	3
Beecher Field, Jonathan	3, 10	Erickso-Hawlish, Nathaniel	40
Beresch, Ashley	6	Fennell, Jacob	7
Bibler, Michael	45, 49	Fennell, Jacob	43
Bills, Anna	34	Flores-Silva, Dolores	11
Birdwell, Robert	31	Fontenot, Emily	48
Bland, Robert	17	Ford, Sarah Gilbreath	7, 19
Blasi, Matthew	32, 48	Fox, Melissa	4
Boulden, Meredith Heath	21	Frye, Katie	4
Boyagoda, Randy	22	Frye, Kayla J.	7
Brera, Matteo	25	Frye, Kourtney	1
Brown, Madison	39	Fuller, Garrett	21, 43
Bruce, Chloe	26	Fuller, Stephen M.	19
Bryan, Rachel	37, 46	Giesbrecht, Jackson	47
Bryant-Cheney, Matt	37, 46	Gilmore, Garrett Bridger	51
Byers, John W.	21	Gordon, Phillip "Pip"	16
Caison, Gina	18, 41	Gottlich, Anthony	34
Caliedo, Jeffrey	40	Grace Sciuto, Jenna	44
Carlson, Jerry W.	33	Haber, Martin	11
Cartwright, Keith	11, 23	Hagaman , Sarah	42
Case, Jim	20	Hagood, Taylor	23, 44
Case, Rheagan	39	Hagstette, Todd	45
Charlton, Ryan	20	Hamby, Iyanna	14
Chinn, Sarah E.	17	Hanna-Huff, Ami	34
Ciampi, Bella	38	Harrell, Randall W.	6
Claxton, Mae Miller	28	Harrison, Rebecca L.	15
Clements, Riley	26	Hart, Marcus	30
Colley, Sharon E.	32	Hayes, Jennifer	27
Collins, Paul	28	Henninger, Katherine	23, 43, 45
Connell, Will	38	Herring, Izzy	19
Costello, Brannon	20	Herrington, Vincent	38
Crace, Benjamin	37	Hightower, Madison	30
Crunelle , Tanner	51	Hinrichsen, Lisa	22, 23
Cummings, Tashaura	30	Hiwatashi, Mariko	32
Davis-McElligatt, Joanna	14, 28, 49, 51	Hopkins, I.B.	50
Davis, David A.	2	Horner, Spencer	47
Davis, Thadious	1, 23	Horváth, Csaba	41
DiGregorio, Savannah	18, 34, 42	Hunter, Madison	52
Dominy, Jordan	33	Jackson, Robert	2, 18
Donnelly, Andrew	17	Johnson, Latrice	1, 14

Index of Participants

Participant	Session	Participant	Session
Johnson, LaTrina M.	1	Pinkowitz, Jacqueline	33, 40
Johnson, Sherita L.	9, 18	Pollack, Harriet	4
Kabugi, Magana	18, 36	Prince, K. Stephen	17
Kao, Pei-Wen Clio	15	Randall, Alice	11, 13
King, Amy K.	10	Rattner, Ashley	21
Kleintop, Amanda	17	Reed, Chaunece	9
Kodat, Catherine	22	Reed, Taylor	30
Lambert, Matthew	14	Richardson, Riché	42
Lee, Sabrina	10	Rittmayer, Allison	28, 47
Leonhard, Evan	40	Robertson, Elizabeth	50
LeRoy-Frazier, Jill	32	Rogers, La Tanya L.	30
Levy, Remy	21	Romine, Scott	5, 49
Lightweis-Goff, Jennie	12, 41, 48	Ross, Abigail	43
Lowe, June	23	Ross, Simon P.	33
Lurie, Peter	22	Rountree, Stephanie	5, 26
Lutenski, Emily	2	Rozelle, Lee	7
Lyons, Shanice	1	Sauers, Cameron	9
Maginn, Andrew	25	Schmidt, Peter	11
Mark, Rebecca	4	Schnepp, Jessica	46
Martini, Alessia	25	Shahbaaz, Zeba	20, 27
Massey, Ashley	31	Shermyen, Sarah	5
Matthews, John T.	22	Sheth, Arya	26
McCaskill, Barbara	23	Sisson, James	46
McInnis, Jarvis C.	36	Smith, Kaitlyn	4
McQueen, Elizabeth	12	Smith, Maisie	34
McWhirter, David	15	Smith, Zaheerah	31
Melford Goodhead, Dokubo	26	Spoth, Daniel	43
Miller, Byron	31	Squires, David	50
Miller, Monica C.	16, 49	Stecopoulos, Harry	45
Montalbano, Alessandra	25	Steverson, Delia	8
Morrison, Brooke	39	Sutton, Matthew D.	12
Morrison, Jennifer	52	Swanson, Kemesia Randle	8
Neill, Sterling	42	Uddin, Md Jalal	6
Nunn, Erich	10, 49	Watson-Morris, Aidan	5
Oliver, Laura	52	Watson, Jay	22
Ostman, Heather	50	Weston, Bethany	6
Oyebade, Olufemi	27	Williams, Dana A.	24
Painter, Katie	9	Wilson, Jency	20
Palmer, William C.	12	Wilson, Laura	4, 38, 44
Parler, Samuel	45	Winter, Cameron Lee	47
Patterson, Bleah	6	Woods, Amare'	30
Petersen, Robert C.	3	Xan, Christina	40
Phillips, Peyton	39	Yoo, Justice	37



Welcomes Our **2026 Exhibitors**



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA PRESS



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE PRESS



**UNBANNABLE
LIBRARY**

**Exhibitors are located by the Conference Registration
Desk at the front entrance of the Franklin Library.**



NASHVILLE'S OLDEST
BLACK-OWNED BOOKSTORE



Curating Literature, Culture & Community — For 40 Years

Dear Scholars,

Alkebu-Lan Images is proud to support the SSSL Conference at Fisk University — and to welcome you to the historic Jefferson Street corridor. As Nashville's oldest Black-owned bookstore, we've spent 40 years curating literature, culture, and community. Stop by while you're in town — and show your conference program for 10% off your purchase.

Store Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 10am - 7pm

Sat. 10am - 6pm

Sun. 12pm - 6pm

10% OFF

SHOW YOUR CONFERENCE PROGRAM
AT TIME OF PURCHASE

2721 Jefferson Street
Nashville, TN

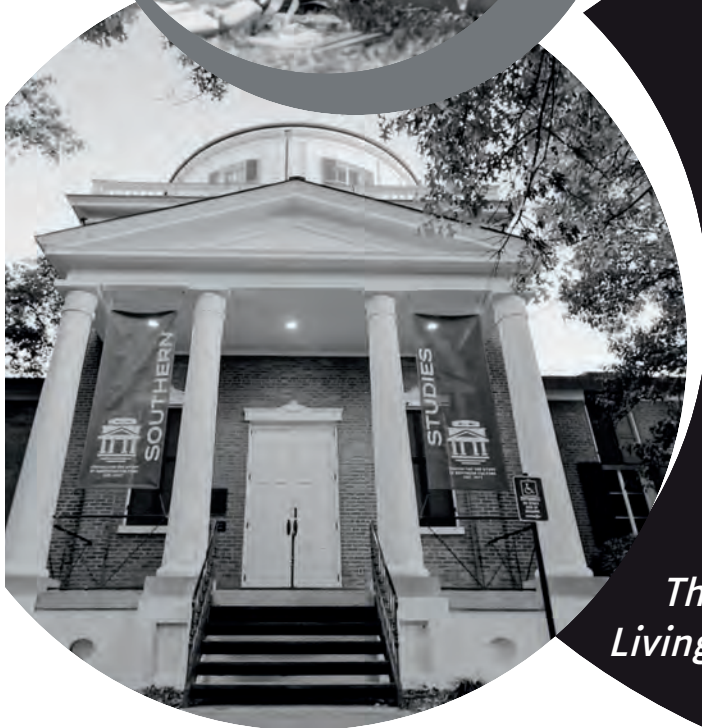
alkebulanimages.com



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE

The University of Mississippi

*The first interdisciplinary center
dedicated to the study of the
American South – since 1977*



OUR PROGRAMS

- B.A. in Southern Studies ✓
- M.A. in Southern Studies ✓
- M.F.A. in Documentary Expression ✓
- Southern Documentary Project ✓
- Southern Foodways Alliance ✓

OUR IMPACT

- Study the South* ✓
- SouthTalks speaker series* ✓
- Oxford Conference for the Book ✓
- The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* ✓
- Living Blues* – America's first blues magazine ✓

olemiss.edu/southernstudies

Proud Sponsor of SSSL 2026



UNC
GREENSBORO

College of Arts
and Sciences

WHERE HUMANITIES THRIVE

*#3 English Ph.D. Program in NC
#3 History Ph.D. Program in NC
\$12.9 million in annual external
research funding*

**Southern Roots.
Global Scholarship.**

**UNC Greensboro
College of Arts & Sciences**
Proud Sponsor of SSSL 2026

CONTACT

 cas@uncg.edu

 cas.uncg.edu



PROUD SPONSOR

SSSL 2026



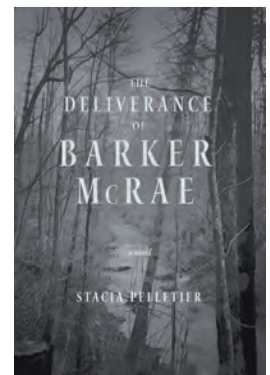
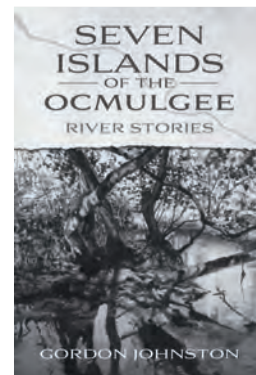
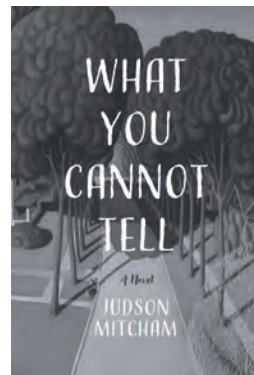
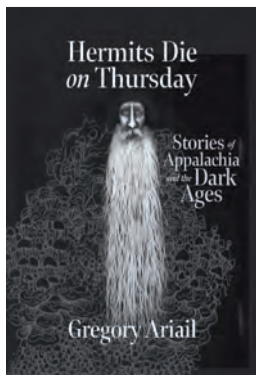
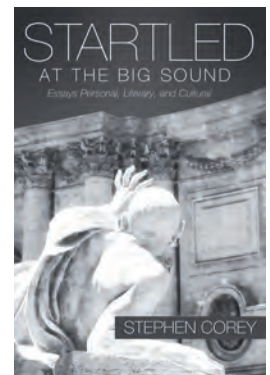
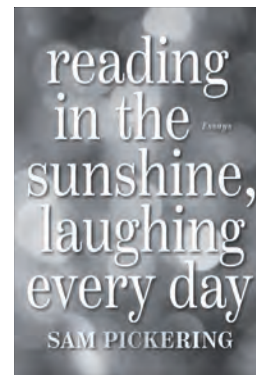
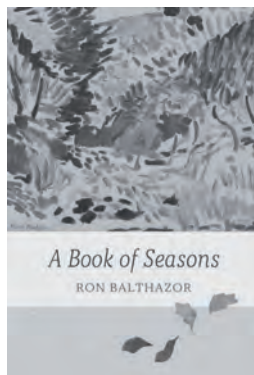
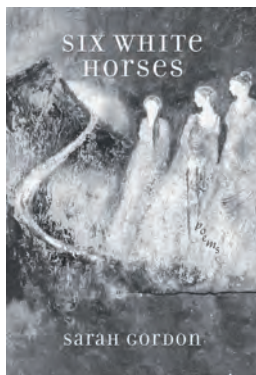
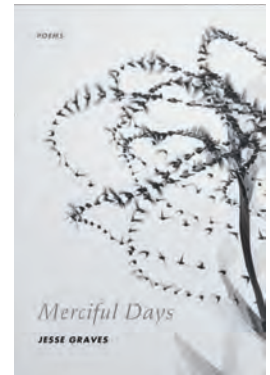
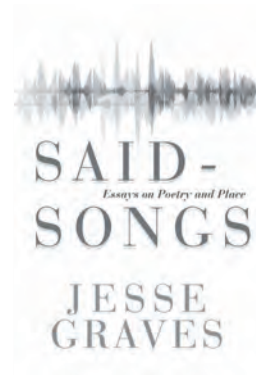
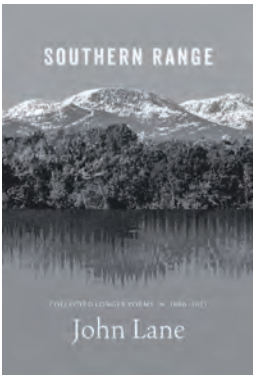
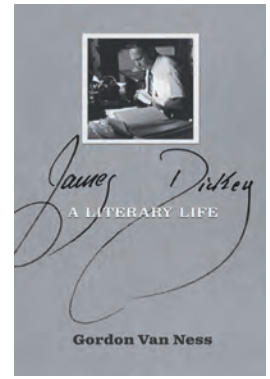
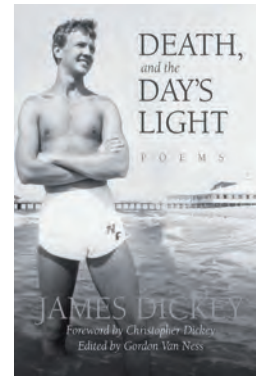
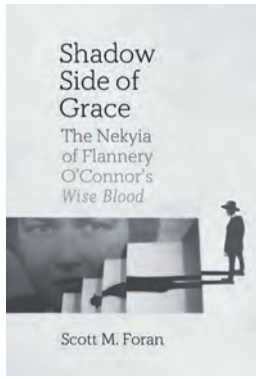
Advancing conversations about the South through interdisciplinary teaching, public scholarship, and dynamic programs that explore the region's diverse histories, cultures, and voices.

The Spencer B. King, Jr., Center Hosts:

- ✔ The Dorothy Blount Lamar Lectures on Southern History and Culture
- ✔ The Thomas Robinson Prize for Southern Literature
- ✔ The Laurie Byington Lectures on the Contemporary South



KingCenter.Mercer.edu



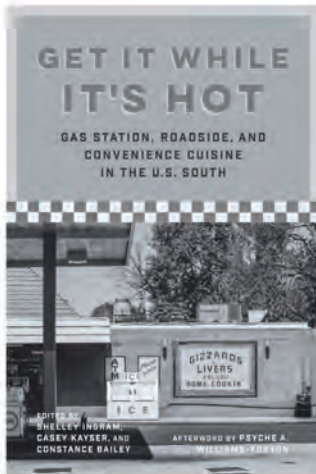
Check our website for more great titles. Use coupon code **MUPNEWS** at checkout to receive **20% discount** on entire order. Visa/MC only. Shipping charges apply.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

MERCER UNIVERSITY PRESS

mupress.org • 866-895-1472

RECENT TITLES FROM LSU PRESS

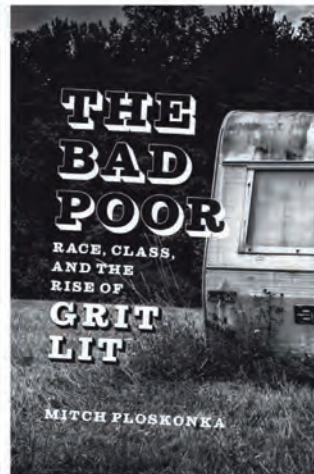


GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT

Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Edited by CONSTANCE BAILEY, SHELLEY INGRAM and CASEY KAYSER

Paperback | \$34.95
Hardcover | \$54.95

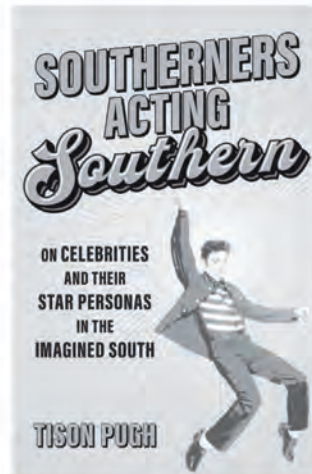


THE BAD POOR

Race, Class, and the Rise of Grit Lit

By MITCH PLOSKONKA

Hardcover | \$45.00

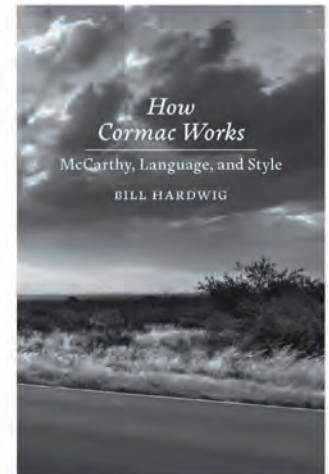


SOUTHERNERS ACTING SOUTHERN

On Celebrities and Their Star Personas in the Imagined South

By TISON PUGH

Paperback | \$34.95
Hardcover | \$69.95

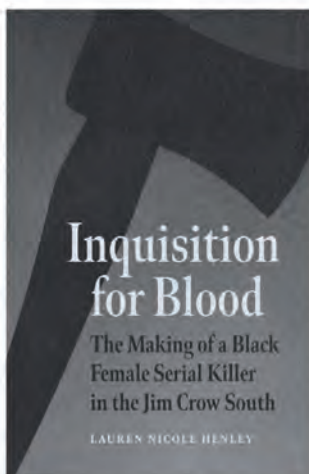


HOW CORMAC WORKS

McCarthy, Language, and Style

By BILL HARDWIG

Paperback | \$35.00
Hardcover | \$45.00



INQUISITION FOR BLOOD

The Making of a Black Female Serial Killer in the Jim Crow South

By LAUREN NICOLE HENLEY

Hardcover | \$34.95

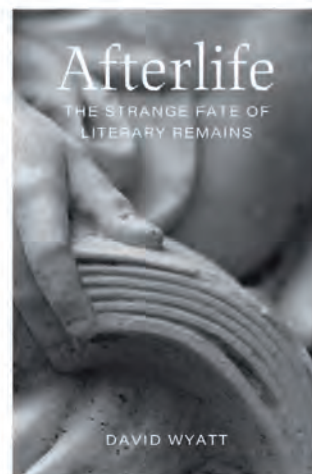


CAFÉ LAFITTE IN EXILE

Queer New Orleans and the Story of America's Oldest Gay Bar

By FRANK PEREZ and JEFFREY PALMQUIST

Hardcover | \$32.95

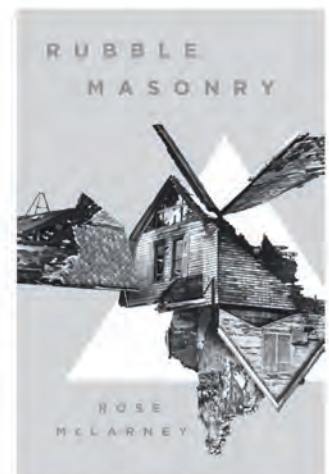


AFTERLIFE

The Strange Fate of Literary Remains

By DAVID WYATT

Paperback | \$34.95
Hardcover | \$69.95



RUBBLE MASONRY

By ROSE MCLARNEY

Paperback | \$29.95

40% OFF

WITH DISCOUNT CODE **LSU40OFF**

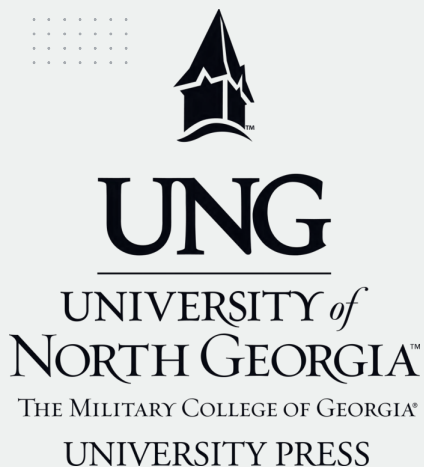
LSUPRESS.ORG | FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$100

CLAJOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of THE COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

CLA Journal is a multilingual, international peer-reviewed publication that fosters socially engaged, innovative, and groundbreaking scholarship in language, literature, linguistics, and pedagogy, cultivated by the diverse international membership of the College Language Association. *CLAJ* welcomes submissions from 2026 SSSL conference presenters.

**Submissions may be sent directly to editor@clascholars.org.
For more information, visit www.clascholars.org.**



Interested scholars are encouraged to review submission guidelines at: <https://ung.edu/university-press/submissions/book-proposal-submission-guidelines.php>

Call for Monographs

The University of North Georgia Press invites proposals for scholarly monographs across the following areas:

- New South Literature Studies
- Appalachian Studies (with an emphasis on Agriculture)
- Native American Studies (with an emphasis on the Cherokee)
- Innovative Pedagogy
- Military and Leadership Studies
- Security Studies
- Technical Media Innovation
- Wellness

All scholarly monographs undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MISSISSIPPI QUARTERLY
The Journal of Southern Cultures

Proud Sponsor of SSSL 2026

Join Us

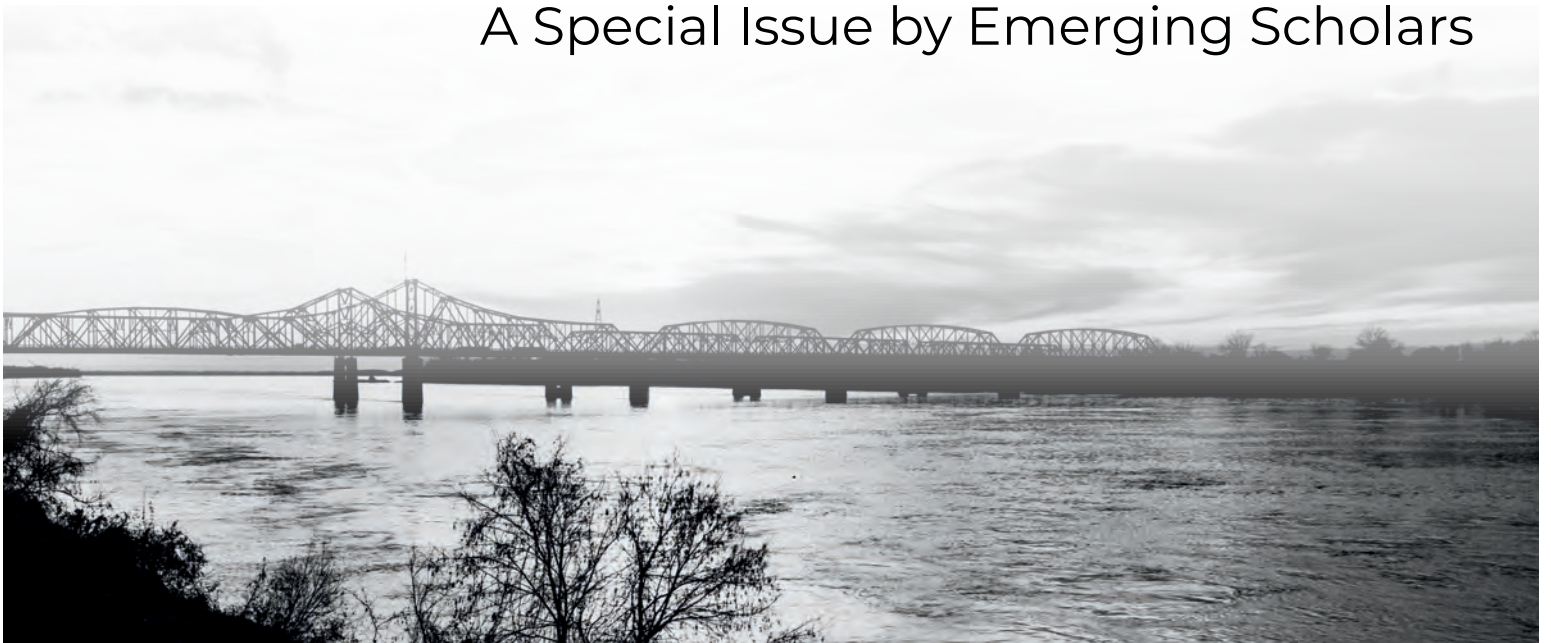
Opening Night Reception

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | Appleton Room, Jubilee Hall
Following “A Reading by Alice Randall” (13)

Don't Miss

Mississippi Quarterly 78.1 (2026)

New Directions in Southern Studies:
A Special Issue by Emerging Scholars





THE 84TH ANNUAL
COLLEGE LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

**SOUL FOOD, SOUL WORK,
SOUL LEGACIES:
Food, Family, and Faith as Foundation**

APRIL 8-11, 2026 | JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI | THE JACKSON WESTIN
HOST INSTITUTION: JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



Thanks to Our 2026 **SPONSORS**



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

MISSISSIPPI QUARTERLY
The Journal of Southern Cultures



**UNC
GREENSBORO**
College of Arts
and Sciences

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Spencer B. King, Jr., Center for Southern Studies



CENTER FOR
THE STUDY OF
SOUTHERN CULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

and

Mercer University Press
Louisiana State University Press
University of North Georgia Press