

calendar of events

social panorama

FREE
Pick one up!

February 2005

Bluffs & Bayous

Life Along the Mississippi

Enterprising
Women

Theatre
Performances

Area Gardens
Gardens

Word Gras
Events



N-Sights

February 2005

Vol. 32, No. 3

The campus newspaper of Copenhagen-Lincoln Community College Natchez

**Top
Notch**

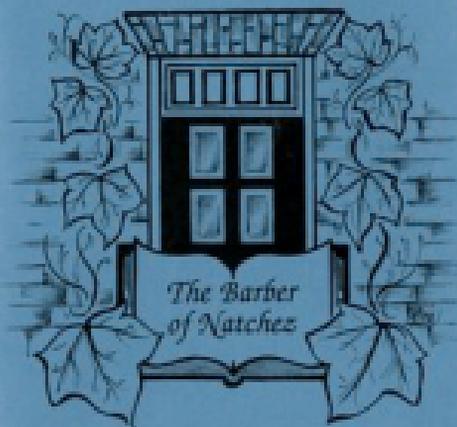
**Allen
Oliver:**



2005 part 1
page 1

The Pilgrimage Garden Club
Natchez, Mississippi
presents

"Exploring William Johnson's World"
A Standard Flower Show



Saturday, February 26, 2005
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

2005 part 1
page 2

A DECADE OF SUCCESS, A DIALOGUE

The Rural Development Mission
Mississippi's Community and Junior

Keep whole
booklet - I
give a program
in the Natchez -
2005 said - 1998

CONCURRENT SESSIONS (continued)

WINSTON I
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

IV. FINDING/BUILDING A
COMPETITIVE NICHE

Charles Barnett, Moderator
Marketing Coordinator, Clarks Summit
Northwest Mississippi Community College

• SHAPING AN ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Ed Fidler
Dean of Business Education
East River Community College

• PLACE CONNECTIONS:
THE FUEL OF ENGAGEMENT

Carolyn Vance Smith
Provost and Co-Chair
Natchez Lectures and Career Conferences

• INFORMATION AGE
PARTNERSHIPS

Sharon Campbell
Director of Career Services and
Workforce Development
East County Junior College

Carolee Whisenand
Dean of Instruction, Research
and Quality
East County Junior College

WINSTON II
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

V. FOSTERING
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Michael Heintz, Moderator
Marketing Coordinator, Clarks Summit
Hinds Community College

• JOBS/START-UP NEW
BUSINESSES, NEW JOBS

Janet Huggie
Dean of Community and
Business Development
Mississippi Community College

Millie Haber
Business Director

The MidSouth Partnership For Rural Community Colleges



William Johnson House, Natchez, Mississippi

BOOK IT!

16th Annual
**NATCHEZ
LITERARY
& CINEMA
CELEBRATION**



2005 part 1
page 3

**BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
FREE BLACKS IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH**

**February 23 - 27, 2005
Natchez Convention Center, Natchez, Mississippi**

Programs by Nationally Known Scholars, Writers, & Film Experts as well as
**Films • Concerts • Exhibits • Discussions • Tours • Book Signings
Writing Workshops • Receptions • Meals**
All free or low-cost!

SPECIAL EVENT: 9 am, February 26, 2005
The grand opening of the William Johnson House,
home of a Free Black in Natchez, now part of the Natchez National Historical Park

Information & Tickets
601-446-1289 / 866-296-6522 Toll-Free www.colin.edu/nlcc

SPONSORS
Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Public Broadcasting
Supported by MS Humanities Council

2005 part 1
page 4

2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

"A riveting topic, speakers who are major headliners, and a program with a track record of success—all in Mississippi's Queen City!" So wrote one scholar about the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, to take place February 23-27, 2005, in Natchez, Mississippi. The theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

The conference will begin with a keynote address by Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*. The conference will continue with programs, films, workshops, discussion groups, book signings, concerts, tours, meals, and receptions.

A highlight will be the dedication and grand opening of the William Johnson House in downtown Natchez, once home of a free black and now part of the Natchez National Historical Park.

The conference is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Founder and director is Carolyn Vance Smith of Natchez, longtime member of the advisory committee of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

Information about the conference may be obtained by calling 601-446-1289 or toll-free 866-296-6522; by e-mailing Christy.Williams@colin.edu; or by visiting the Web site, www.colin.edu/nlcc. Most of the conference is free.

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2005 part 1
page 5



The
University of Mississippi
Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

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June 8, 2004

TO: Center Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Charles Reagan Wilson, Director
SUBJECT: July Meeting and Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference

The Center's next Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, July 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in Barnard Observatory. We will also have a breakfast meeting on Sunday, July 25th, at 10:00 a.m. in Barnard Observatory. A preliminary list of activities is enclosed.

Everyone is invited to two "Dutch Treat" events on Saturday, the 24th. We'll have lunch at City Grocery at 11:30 a.m. and dinner at the Downtown Grill at 7:00 p.m. Please return the enclosed form to make reservations for lunch and/or dinner, or call my assistant to confirm your attending the lunch and/or dinner.

The 31st annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference will begin on Sunday, July 25, and we hope you will plan to stay for at least a few days of the conference, if not for the entire week. A preliminary schedule is enclosed.

Your name tags will serve as tickets for most conference activities, **but reservations and payments are required for meals and tours. You may make reservations for these events by returning the reply form to the Center by Friday, July 9.**

I hope you will make plans to attend the committee meeting and to join us for the conference. The July meeting every year marks a key Center planning date, when we assess what we've been doing and what we're planning for upcoming months. We look forward to seeing you and the rest of our committee members soon!

Enclosures

 P.S.: Our winter meeting will take place on Sunday, February 27, 2005, in conjunction with the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. A flyer with information about the program is enclosed.

From Center for the Study
of Southern Culture

6-8-04

NATCHEZ LITERARY & CINEMA CELEBRATION

Natchez, Mississippi

FEBRUARY 23 - 27, 2005

Between Two Worlds:

Free Blacks in the Antebellum South

16th annual conference celebrating
the literary and cinema world

Natchez Convention Center

The purpose of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is to bring to Natchez, Mississippi, an annual thematic humanities event that ties together the historical, literary, political, social, artistic, and natural heritage of Mississippi and the South. The event celebrates the region's contributions through lectures, films, documentaries, programs, seminars, workshops, discussions, concerts, dramatic presentations, exhibits, tours, field trips, book signings, and award ceremonies.

ABOUT THE CELEBRATION.....

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, winner of an Olympic Award, the Governor's Award, and the Mississippi Tourism Award, has been called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history, and culture."

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting, the Celebration annually presents a theme-based lecture series enhanced by films, field trips, workshops, exhibits, book signings, and discussions.

2005 part 1
page 7

7-27-04

File NLCC 2005

publicity

Ann, thanks for agreeing to put a blurb about the 2005 NLCC into the next issue of *Southern Register*. I enjoy the magazine so much and look forward to four issues each year!! How do you do it?? I stand amazed.

Here goes:

"A riveting topic, speakers who are major headliners, and a program with a track record of success—all in Mississippi's Queen City!"

So wrote one scholar about the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, to take place Feb. 23-27, 2005, in Natchez, Miss. The theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

The conference will begin with a keynote address by Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*. The conference will continue with programs, films, workshops, discussion groups, book signings, concerts, tours, meals, and receptions.

A highlight will be the dedication and grand opening of the William Johnson House in downtown Natchez, once home of a Free Black and now part of the Natchez National Historical Park.

The Olympic Award-winning conference is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Founder and director is Carolyn Vance Smith of Natchez, longtime member of the board of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

Information about the conference may be obtained by calling 601-446-1289 or toll-free 866-296-6522; by emailing Christy.Williams@colin.edu; or by visiting the web site, www.colin.edu/nlcc. Most of the conference is free.

Thanks, Ann!!
Carolyn

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Educational Travel Associates, Inc./Elderhostel
P.O. Box 1307
Natchez, MS 39121-1307
Phone: 601-446-1208
Fax: 601-446-1214
Email: Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu
Web site for Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
www.colin.edu/nlcc

2005 part 1
page 8

Regional

Upcoming Events of Interest

Roundup

The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will explore the theme "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." The event, set for February 23-27, 2005, in Natchez, Mississippi, is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Broadcasting Networks. Headquarters will be the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street.

The program, featuring nationally known scholars, historians, writers, and film experts will explore and clarify issues relating to blacks and whites. Also scheduled for the event are tours, films, panel discussions, a concert, writing workshops, parties, and an awards ceremony.

A major event will be the official opening of the William Johnson House, a property of the National Park Service that was once home to a free black in Natchez, 1809-1851. His 16-year diary, published as *William Johnson's Natchez*, inspired his biography, *The Barber of Natchez*.

Most of the conference is free. For more information and tickets, call toll-free 866-296-NLCC (866-296-6522) or 601-446-1289. Or email Christy.Williams@colin.edu or visit the Web site at www.colin.edu/nlcc.

A Conference on the Globalization of the American South will take place March 3-4, 2005, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The conference comes as part of a six-year exploration, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, of the economic, political, and social challenges and opportunities the southern United States faces because of globalization. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of the American South and the University Center for International Studies, the program will feature scholars, policymakers, activists, professionals, and artists who deal with contemporary issues facing the region. Participants will represent an array of fields, including business, education, health, humanities, journalism, law, and social science. For more information and to register, please contact globalsouth@unc.edu.

Fall 2004

The Southern Register

Page 25

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

MARK CAMAREGG practiced law in California before moving to Mississippi in 2002 to study Southern history and work for *Living Blues* magazine as a graduate assistant. He is now publications manager of *Living Blues*.

JOAN WYLIE HALL teaches in the English Department at the University of Mississippi. She is the author of *Shirley Jackson: A Study of the Short Fiction* and articles on many Southern authors.

JESSICA B. HARRIS, the author of eight cookbooks on the foods and foodways of the African Diaspora, has written book reviews, theatre reviews, and travel and feature articles for numerous publications. She is an English professor at Queens College, City University of New York.

COLBY H. KULLMAN is professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Among his publications are articles on Tennessee Williams and other modern dramatists, *Theatre Companies of the World*, and a book of interviews with American playwrights.

PEARL A. MCHANEY teaches at Georgia State University and edits the *Eudora Wely Newsletter*. She is editor of *A Writer's Eye*, a collection of Wely's book reviews, and a book of writers' reflections on Wely's work.

KATHRYN MCKEE is McMullan associate professor of Southern Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Mississippi. She has published essays and lectured about writers of the 19th- and 20th-century South, including William Faulkner and Bobbie Ann Mason.

RANKIN SHERLING, from Yazoo City, Mississippi, is a master's student in the University of Mississippi's History Department. He is writing his thesis on the Irish immigrant experience in the American South and plans to continue his studies, pursuing a PhD in history.

JENNIFER SOUTHALL received a BA in English from the University of Mississippi, where she is a communication specialist for the Office of Media and Public Relations. She previously taught high school English and worked as a magazine editor.

CHRISTOPHER L. STACEY is a PhD student in the history program at the University of Mississippi. He is writing a dissertation on antebellum and Civil War poor relief.

DAVID WHARTON is assistant professor and director of documentary projects at the Center, where he teaches courses in Southern Studies, fieldwork, and photography. He is the author of *The Seal of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History* from McDade.

CHARLES REAGAN WILSON is director of the Center and professor of history and Southern Studies. Among his publications are *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause and Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis*.

STEVE YATES, of Flowood, Mississippi, has published fiction in many journals and has short stories forthcoming in the *Southwest Review*, the *Texas Review*, and *Louisiana Literature*.

2005 part 1
page 9



The
University of Mississippi

Oxford • Jackson • Tupelo • Southaven

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To: Center Advisory Committee

From: CRW

Subject: Coming Year

Date: September 7, 2004

Yesterday was Labor Day, the traditional end of the summer, and I want to begin the academic year with a brief update from the Center and give you a schedule of upcoming Center activities.

It has been a busy summer. I am pleased to let you know that we sent off the manuscript for the first revisions of the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. We have deadlines of September 15 and 30 to send additional material, so things are happening here.

We are working away at the *Mississippi Encyclopedia*, and I'm enclosing a copy of a nice story the *Clarion-Ledger* did about it.

I'm also enclosing a calendar of Center conferences and other meetings and events. Our Center Advisory Board meeting is on October 7, during the Southern Foodways Symposium. We will meet at the City Grocery for a brunch at 11:30 a.m. and then our meeting will follow from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. at the Barnard Observatory. We will also have an Advisory Committee meeting on February 27 in Natchez, during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

I want especially to highlight the American South, Then and Now Symposium, November 18-20. At the same time, we will also be honoring the members of the L. Q. C. Lamar Society, a 1970s-era group that pioneered the kind of work the Endowment for the Future of the South will be launching. We are hoping for a big turnout from our Advisory Committee members, as we begin Future of the South projects. I am enclosing a copy of the program for the symposium.

We hope everyone had a great summer. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Natchez completes \$2M renovation of freed slave's home



The Natchez National Historical Park Service opened the William Johnson home to coincide with the Natchez Fall Pilgrimage.

Molly Dempsey Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Pilgrimage to the past

Southern Style

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004

By Cori Bolger

cbolger@statesentinel.com

Oct 4, 04
NATCHEZ—As a child, Jimmy Guerico hurried past a square brick home on his way down State Street to the Mississippi River, where he scoured the bank for washed-up treasures.

He never thought much of the random home, a structure that paled in comparison to the grandeur of the town's antebellum homes.

"Nor did he know the woman who lived inside, a seamstress and descendant of a barber named William Johnson.

It was only when Guerico returned to Natchez in the '70s to open an antique shop that he realized what he had missed.

"I took it for granted and now there is a different type of awareness," said Guerico, 62, as he strolled through the home on a recent morning.

After a decade of planning and a \$2 million renovation project, the Natchez National Historical Park Service opened the William Johnson home last week to coincide with the upcoming Natchez Fall Pilgrimage.

The two-floor home, once owned by Johnson, a free African-American man known as "The Barber of Natchez," now includes period furniture and dis-

play panels that tell Johnson's story. The adjacent, renovated John McCullum home houses a bookstore.

A permanent exhibit, set to open in late February during the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration Between Two Worlds: Five Blacks in the Antebellum South, will feature audio tour programs, a digital version of Johnson's diary and artifacts found during the renovation.

"The house is going to be the most significant thing in town," said John Saleby, general manager of nearby Natchez Pilgrimage Tours. "Johnson is a very well-known historical figure. A lot of good is going to come from this."

Born into slavery in 1809, Johnson was freed by Capt. William Johnson, the man thought to be his father. He bought his brother-in-law's barbershop in 1830 and began acquiring some of

Natchez's wealthiest men as his friends and customers.

An energetic and shrewd businessman, Johnson opened several barbershops in downtown Natchez, dabbled in real estate and bought and sold various goods, all while owning up to 15 slaves at a time.

"This was a man who was born as a slave, freed as a child and owned slaves

DETAILS

■ **What:** William Johnson, "The Barber of Natchez," house tour.

■ **Time:** 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Thursday through Sunday.

■ **Where:** 210 State St. in downtown Natchez, next to the Canal Street Depot.

■ **Admission:** Free.
■ **Phone:** (601) 442-7049.

2005 part 1
page 12

See JOHNSON, 7B

Johnson: Diary used to help replicate interior

From 6B

himself. It seems so paradoxical," said Jim Heaney of the Natchez National Historical Park Service. "He was doing everything he could to elevate himself in society, and that meant owning land and slaves. That's just the way it was back then."

Johnson, who married and had 11 children before he was murdered during a boundary dispute in 1851, kept an extensive diary depicting life in the post-Civil War era. It was published by the Louisiana State University Press in 1951.

The diary — which include entries about business, family and horse racing — is considered to be one of the most in-depth accounts of the day-to-day life of a freed African-American man in the 1840s and '50s.

"(The diary) is a great gem that shows his character," Heaney said. "Johnson didn't know we'd be reading it today, so it takes on a certain sense of sincerity."

Researchers used clues from the diary to determine how the home's interior appeared when Johnson lived there. A majority of the furniture in the home was either sold or donated to the park service by Mary Louise Miller, wife of Johnson's grandson, Dr. William Johnston.

Miller's relatives sold the house to the Preservation Society of Elliott Hill in 1976. The group then sold the property to the City of



Molly Dempsey/Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Curator Kathleen Jenkins discusses the hanging of wallpaper with Justin Neal of Landers Painting in the parlor of the William Johnson home in Natchez. The home recently was opened to the public.

Natchez, which donated it to the National Park Service in 1990.

The house is one of three sites that make up the Natchez National Historical Park Service. Melrose, an antebellum mansion, and the 1716 site of the French fort Rosalie are the other areas maintained by the federally-funded organization.

"Johnson's story is a fascinating aspect of this society and one that fits into our interpretive goals," Heaney said. "Now, we can talk about the elite, free black

businessmen and the lives of slaves."

Guerico, a local history buff, acquired remnants from the house in the 1970s and recently donated an original framed lithograph back to the project. He hopes it will hang in the house someday.

"The lifestyle aspect of the house is important," he said. "We want to hear how he lived, how he was treated and how he treated his children and his servants ... We have waited a long time for this story to be told."

Upcoming NLCC to examine life of free blacks in the South

Special to The Democrat

NATCHEZ — Who were free blacks in the South providing the Civil War? Were they better off than slaves? Were they semi-slaves? Were they treated compassionately by white people? Or did they enjoy the full rights of citizenship?

"The truth will be told about this unusual group of people in American history at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990 and have paid-off it into what is called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

The Celebration has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

"The 2005 conference theme is 'Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South.'" It is set for Feb. 23-27, 2005, with headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street downtown Natchez.

"We think the 2005 conference will be our strongest yet," Smith said. "We began with a riveting subject and added Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, nationally known scholars and beautiful Natchez as a living museum that relates directly to the subject of the conference."

Natchez as a living museum is exemplified in the William Johnson House, built by a free black in Natchez, which will be officially opened to the public by the National Park Service during the conference.

Free dedication ceremonies, set for 9 a.m., Feb. 26, 2005, will attract national, state and local governmental and tourism leaders as well as conference-goers, the general public and media representatives.

Among the speakers at the conference are the following:

► Iva Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The free Negro in the Antebellum South, on free blacks in the South*

► Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on free blacks from Natchez to New Orleans

► Ruth and Jim Cox on Robert D. Smith, a Free Black of Natchez, whose home, Bonham, will be the site of the Celebration's annual gala benefit party Feb. 26

► Douglas Inglis, Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain, on free blacks during the Colonial period

► Alex Kromann, documentary film maker of *Silver Spirit*, Md., on Ibrahim, an African prince who was a slave in Natchez

► Sybil Keta, New Orleans, author of *Gumbo People and Creole: The History and Legacy of Louisiana's free people of color, on Louisiana Creole cultural heritage*

► Elizabeth Showen MDH, Tuscaloosa, Ala., author of *Isle of Canes and Cane River Creole*

Natchez

Series, on master-slave sexual dynamics and slaveholding by free people of color

► Wilken Bolford Clark, Texas A&M University, on Robert Penn Warren's *Band of Angels*

► Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, on black barbers and the structure of Free Black society

► William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative

► Leonard P. Curry of University of Louisville, on free blacks in the urban South

► Virginia Meacham Gould, New Orleans, on women at the William Johnson family

► Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., on black masters and their role as misandrous slave owners

► Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C., Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel *The Known World*

The conference's festive annual award ceremony will be at 6 p.m., Feb. 26, honoring the Richard



The Natchez Democrat published photo

William Johnson was a free black in Natchez whose diary about everyday life in his community has been studied by historians for decades.

Wright Literary Excellence Award are William Raspberry, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, and Mildred D. Taylor, author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, which won the American Library Association's *Newbery Award*.

Winning the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Colleen Koozin, author of the film *Thelma & Louise* and *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*.

Enhancing the lecture series and

award events are films, including *Band of Angels*, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, and a segment about Bonham from the *History Detective Series*; a concert of *Creole Jazz* by Don Vappie and the *Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans*; scenes of the *William Johnson House*; a standard *Dinner show* in six historic homes sponsored by the *Pilgrimage Garden Club*, called "Exploring William Johnson's World"; walking tours called "William Johnson's Natchez"; a luncheon with music of

the 1850s by Micky Davis and A Trace of Natchez; three receptions, exhibits, and discussion sessions.

Prior to the conference on Feb. 23 are seminars at Co-Lin Natchez by Susanne B. Dietzel, Loyola University, on *Maya Angelou*; Ethel Young-Missor, The University of Mississippi, on *Mississippi and Black writers*; Manny Shagars, Alcorn State University, on *Mississippi poet Frank Stanford*; and Lester Sullivan, Xavier University, on *William Johnson of Natchez*, whose diaries inspired *William Johnson's Natchez: The Antebellum Diary of a Free Negro and The Barber of Natchez*.

Concluding the conference are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops, Frances Doss of the Alcorn State University Writing Project will discuss *journal writing*; Alan Huffman, author of *Mississippi in Africa*, will discuss *doing primary research in Africa*; Billy Ray Reynolds, stage/screenwriter of *Nashville* will discuss *creating sound and music for screenplays, films and video*; Ronald L. F.

Davis, California, Natchez, will discuss *research in Adams County*; Elizabeth Showen, *Historical and genealogy*

Most of the tickets for the reception, the coffee party, and picnic seminars are to get information, 866-296-6522 or email Christy.W@www.colin.edu

Sponsors of the event are Co-Lin, Natchez National Park, Mississippi Archives and Mississippi Public Conference on Carolyn Vance Whitman of Barnet of MD.

The conference is by the Mississippi Council.

2005 part 1
page 14

Co-Lin cooks up tasty food competition

By AMANDA CARAWAY
N-Sights Staff

Co-Lin cooked up a tasty competition in the first annual "Iron Teams" contest Nov. 17. Filmed as a replica of the TV Food Network's "Iron Chef" show, the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Room was turned into a full-scale kitchen.

"I was astounded at the amount of work that went into the whole production and at how smoothly it went," said Co-Lin instructor Judy Wiggins, who was one of the nearly 100 viewers in the audience.

The show was sponsored by the Hospitality/Tourism Management Technology Program and N-Sights and pitted two teams of students from the culinary program and a guest chef from the community.

One team consisted of guest chef Doug Hestford, and students Kristen Temple and Julia Tyler, the winners of the contest. Their opponents were guest chef Jim Anderson and students Bill Green and Michelle Ryan.

"The teams were very professional and although I really enjoyed myself, I wasted some of that food," confessed Wiggins.

Each team was given 35 minutes to create two dishes, an entrée and a side dish using the "secret" ingredients - the teams did not know the main ingredients until cooking time. They had to use boneless breast of chicken, eggplant and cocozza squash, a long, thin squash resembling zucchini. In addition, other vegetables, spices, sauces, cheeses and items were provided for the teams' use. The event was designed to promote the Hospitality/Tourism Management Technology Program in a fun way.

The host was radio personality Sam Jones, who provided a running commentary on the cooking process. "Host Sam Jones really added spice to the competition and the panel of judges made us (the audience) sit on the edge of our seats as we awaited a winner," said Brenton Thornton, a Co-Lin student. To help the audience see the action, two television monitors were set up with cameras focused on each team. Camera operators were Janice Williams and Beverly Kimball, both N-Sights staff members.

Judges were: Gae McCallip, acting dean of Co-Lin Natchez; Andrew Calvit, of Mississippi Valley; Gus and a Co-Lin graduate, Chef Heath Lefebvre, and Amber



Chef Jim Anderson, above left, works with Co-Lin student Bill Green to plate up his team's dishes, while above right, chef Doug Hestford works on his side dish.



N-Sights staff photos



Above left, "Iron Teams Host" Sam Jones boasters with the audience, while the judges, from left Gwen McCallip, Andrew Calvit, Heath Lefebvre and Amber Heffner.

Heffner, Co-Lin student and Student Government Association president. "The food was delicious and the teams worked really well together, so choosing a winner was a really



hard decision to make," said Heffner. The two teams were judged on teamwork, showmanship, food appearance, presentation, food and taste, and level of difficulty in

preparation and cooking; a perfect score being a 500. The judges graded each team and Hestford's team prevailed by a slim margin. Each member was a Co-Lin in reg from

the bookstore and Host Sam Jones walked away with a Co-Lin T shirt.

Next year, the teams will be headed by Hestford, who will try to defend his title, and Lefebvre.

New Ventress Members

The Center is happy to announce that Jamie and Ernest Joyner of Tupelo have become the latest members of the Ventress Order, an organization that administers gifts to departments of Ole Miss's College of Liberal Arts. The Joyners, longtime supporters of the Center, join 11 other individuals or organizations to use their Ventress Order gift to support the Center.

"The Ventress Order really appealed to us," said Jamie Joyner, who recently joined the Center's advisory committee. "It's great that the University has a program that allows people to designate gifts to a particular department."

The Joyners, who have lived in Tupelo for more than 40 years and who have ties to north Mississippi dating back five generations, say they're proud of the work Ole Miss and the Center are doing to promote Mississippi. "The Center has a positive, strong national presence, and we have a lot of pride in the positive programs it offers," Jamie said.

Besides supporting the Center, Ernest, a Vanderbilt University graduate who works for BancorpSouth, and Jamie, who is a homemaker, have

donated their time and money to a number of cultural, artistic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout north Mississippi. "We think the state and the University are moving in the right direction, and an awful lot of people have worked hard to see that happen," Jamie said. "We just want to be a part of that."

Named in honor of James Alexander Ventress, a founding father of the University, the Ventress Order encourages recognition of the College of Liberal Arts as one of the country's outstanding centers of learning. College of Liberal Arts graduates, family members, friends, or organizations may join the order and designate their gifts to particular departments or programs within the college. Corporate and full individual memberships are available by pledging \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Gifts are payable in lump sums or installments not to exceed 10 years. Affiliate memberships are also available through a pledge of \$1,000, payable in a lump sum or installments not to exceed four years.

JENNIFER SOUTHALL



Jamie and Ernest Joyner

2005 part 1
page 16

BOOK IT!

NATCHEZ LITERARY & CINEMA CELEBRATION



BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
Free Blacks in the Antebellum South
February 23 - 27, 2005

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

Programs by Nationally Known
Scholars, Writers,
& Film Experts as well as
Films • Concerts • Exhibits
Discussions • Tours • Book Signings
Writing Workshops • Receptions • Meals
All free or low-cost!

SPECIAL EVENT
The grand opening of the William
Johnson House, home of a Free
Black in Natchez, now part of the
Natchez National Historical Park
9 am, February 26, 2005

Information & Tickets
601-446-1289 / 866-296-6522 toll-free
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William Johnson House, Natchez, Mississippi

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BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
FREE BLACKS IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH

Feb. 23-27, 2005 • Natchez Convention Center, Natchez Miss.

Programs by Nationally Known Scholars, Writers, Film Experts as well as
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SPECIAL EVENT:
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Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Historical Park,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting

2005 part 1
page 18

file NLCC 2005

The New York Times

PRINTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

December 16, 2004

New Signpost at Slavery's Crossroads

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN

NATCHEZ, Miss.

THE intersection known as Forks of the Road looks like nowhere and everywhere. A nondescript urban patchwork distinguished by One Way and Do Not Enter signs, a muffler repair shop and hillocky vacant lots, this land has, until now, shown little to suggest its insidious bloodline. It is the place, from the late 1820's to the Civil War, where slave traders plied their wares in what is today considered, second only to New Orleans, to have been the largest slave market in the South.

On Dec. 11 a group known as Friends of the Forks of the Road and assorted well-wishers gathered on this scraggly scrap of ground to celebrate a victory of sorts: the installation of a small exhibit and sculpture that for the first time publicly interprets and recognizes its history. Ser Seshs Ab Heter-C. M. Boxley, 65, who earned pocket money as a boy selling daffodils and pralines to tourists outside antebellum mansions, has spent nine years championing the site, a part of which was purchased by the city last year with a \$130,000 grant from the Mississippi State Department of Archives and History.

"Traditional preservationists look for bricks and buildings," he said, ceremoniously anointing the ground with dirt from Gorée Island, Senegal, a center of the European slave trade, and water from the Ohio River, the transcontinental slave trade's watery byway, and other concoctions. "But the humanity and spirit of our ancestors lies here."

In this city of flickering chandeliers, where "guests," as tourists are called, have long come to ooh and aah at Hepplewhite desks and matching porcelain cuspidors, it is a moment of historical reckoning. Just up the hill from Forks of the Road lies Monmouth Plantation, a luxury hotel where guests can sleep in "garden cottages" with minibars modeled on slave cabins.

Once described by Robert Penn Warren as "a fantasia," Natchez, a city of 18,000, is equally divided between black and white and elected its first black mayor since Reconstruction last year. Until recently, however, the city largely filtered its own history through a gauze of lace. The white aristocracy that amassed fortunes in cotton turned Natchez into what Ronald L. F. Davis, a professor of history at California State University at Northridge, calls "the wealthiest enclave of plantation slavery in the entire South."

While volunteering recently at the Rose Hill Baptist Church, Mississippi's oldest African-American congregation, Ralph W. Jennings, 68, a board member of the Historic Natchez Foundation, said: "It sounds a little bit coarse to say it, but they were seeing white Natchez, Natchez from the perspective of a slaveholder."

There are inklings of change amid the damask. The new federal spending bill, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 8, includes \$150,000 to assess the possibility of expanding and including the

2005 part 1
page 19



**Copiah-Lincoln
Community College
Alumni Magazine**

The Colinian

Volume 31, No. 1 • January 2005

2005 part 1
page 20

Calendar of Events

Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration	February 23-27, 2005
Foundation Major Donor Banquet	March 12, 2005
Spring Break	March 21 - 28, 2005
Career Fair/Industry Appreciation Day (Wesson)	April 7, 2005
Awards Day/Foundation Scholarship Reception (Wesson) ..	April 20, 2005
Co-Lin Foundation Natchez Golf Classic	April 28, 2005
Graduation Natchez	May 13, 2005
Graduation Wesson	May 14, 2005
Co-Lin Foundation Wesson Golf Classic	June 16, 2005
Classes Begin	August 15, 2005
Homecoming 2005	October 1, 2005

Natchez Literary

(continued from page 17)

Free Blacks in Adams County, Mississippi and Elizabeth Shown Mills, Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, will discuss genealogy today.

Most of the conference is free. To get tickets for the luncheon, one reception, the concert, the gala benefit party, and pre-and post-conference seminars and workshops, and to get information, call toll-free 1-866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289. Or email mail to: Christy.Williams@colin.edu or visit the web site www.colin.edu/nlcc.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Co-Lin, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Conference co-chairmen with Carolyn Vance Smith are Keith Whisenant of the NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoon of MPB.

The conference is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Let us know where you are!

Full Name: _____
Name while at Co-Lin, if different: _____
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Date of Birth: _____ Year Graduated: _____
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Send to: Copiah-Lincoln Community College, ATTN: ALUMNI AFFAIRS, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191 or email kristi.swatts@colin.edu



- 2 Alumni Officers Elected
 - 4 Foundation Hall of Fame Induction
 - 7 Brewer Scholarship Established
- ## 3 Alumni of the Year



- 8 Homecoming Golf Tournament Winners
 - 13 Dow-Young Building Dedication
 - 14 Simpson County Center Groundbreaking
- ## 9 Homecoming Highlights



- 16 Community Arts Series 2005
- 18 Natchez News
- 20 Tracking the Classes

Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration Feb. 23-27, 2005

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2005 part 1
page 22

Natchez Literary Cinema Celebration: Free Blacks in the South

Who were Free Blacks in the South preceding the Civil War? Were they better off than slaves? Were they semi-slaves? Were they treated compassionately by white people? Or did they enjoy the full rights of whites?

"The truth will be told about this unusual group of people in American history at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration" said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990 and have guided it into what is called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

The Celebration has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

The 2005 conference theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." It is set for February 23-27, 2005, with headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street downtown Natchez.

"We think the 2005 conference will be our strongest yet," Smith said. "We began with a riveting subject and added Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, nationally known scholars and beautiful Natchez as a living museum that relates directly to the subject of the conference."

Natchez as a living museum is exemplified in the William Johnson House, built by a Free Black in Natchez, which will be officially opened to the public by the National Park Service during the conference.

Free dedication ceremonies, set for 9:00 a.m., February 26, 2005, will attract national, state and local governmental and tourism leaders as well as conference-goers, the general public and media representatives.

Among the speakers at the conference are the following:

Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*, on Free Blacks in the South
Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on Free Blacks from Natchez to New Orleans
Ruth and Jim Coy on Robert D. Smith, a Free Black of Natchez, whose home, Bontura, will be the site of the Celebration's annual gala benefit party February 26
Douglas Inglis, Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain, on Free Blacks during the Colonial period
Alex Kronemer, documentary film maker of Silver Spring, Maryland, on Ibrahim, an African prince who was a slave in Natchez
Sybil Kein, New Orleans, author of *Gumbo People* and *Creole: The History and Legacy of Louisiana's Free People of Color*, on Louisiana Creole cultural heritage
Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, author of *Isle of Canes* and *Cane River Creole Series*, on master-slave sexual dynamics and slaveholding by free people of color
William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M University, on Robert Penn Warren's *Band of Angels*
Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, on Black barbers and the structure of Free Black society
William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative
Leonard P. Curry of University of



Louisville, on Free Blacks in the urban South Virginia; Meacham Gould, New Orleans, on women in the William Johnson family; Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., on Black masters and their role as misunderstood slave owners; Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C., Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel, *The Known World*.

The conference's festive annual award ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m., Feb. 26. Winning the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award are William Raspberry, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, and Mildred D. Taylor, author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, which won the American Library Association's Newbery Award.

Winning the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Callie Khouri, author of the films "Thelma & Louise" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood."

Enhancing the lecture series and award events are films, including "Band of Angels," "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" and a segment about Bontura from the "History Detective Series"; a concert of Creole Jazz by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans; tours of the William Johnson House; a standard flower show in six historic homes sponsored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club, called "Exploring William Johnson's World," walking tours called "William Johnson's Natchez," a luncheon with music of the 1850s by Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez, three receptions; exhibits, and discussion sessions.

Prior to the conference on Feb. 23 are seminars at Co-Lin Natchez by Susanne B. Dietzel, Loyola University, on Maya Angelou; Ethel Young-Minor, The University of Mississippi, on Mississippi and Black writers; Murray Shugars, Alcorn State University, on Mississippi poet Frank Stanford, and Lester Sullivan, Xavier University, on William Johnson of Natchez, whose diaries inspired William Johnson's Natchez: The Antebellum Diary of a Free Negro and The Barber of Natchez.

Concluding the conference are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops. Frances Doss of the Alcorn State University Writing Project will discuss journal writing; Alan Huffman, author of *Mississippi in Africa*, will discuss doing primary research in Africa; Billy Ray Reynolds, singer/songwriter of Nashville, will discuss creating sound and music for screenplays, films and video; Ronald L. F. Davis, California State University, Northridge, will discuss doing primary research of

(continued on page 19)

For release in *The Colonian*, winter 2005

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- William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative

Hello, everyone!

The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in Natchez, Miss., will take place Feb. 23-27, 2005, using the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." Co-Lin, Natchez Campus, founded the conference and is co-sponsor this year with the Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Former Mississippi Gov. William Winter and Co-Lin's own President, Dr. Howell Garner, will serve as director of proceedings for the conference. Co-chairman and founder of the conference is Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin Natchez.

As usual, Co-Lin Natchez will host some of the conference activities on campus. Other parts of the conference are in downtown Natchez, with the Natchez Convention Center serving as headquarters.

As a member of the Co-Lin family in Natchez and in Wesson, you are invited to attend two segments of the NLCC free of charge. These activities cost others \$30 per person. Just show your Co-Lin ID to get in free.

These two segments will be on the Co-Lin Natchez campus in the Redd/Watkins Vo-Tech Building.

One segment contains four sessions on Wed. morning, Feb. 23.

That morning, the programs are at 8 a.m. (Dr. Susanne Dietzell on Maya Angelou's writings); at 9 a.m. (Dr. Ethel Young-Minor on Mississippi Black writers); at 10 a.m. (Dr. Murray Shugars on Mississippi poet Frank Stanford); and at 11 a.m. (Mr. Lester Sullivan on William Johnson: Natchez Journalist about Town.) The 11 a.m. session is co-sponsored by Student Support Services at Co-Lin.

If anyone who is not from Co-Lin wants to attend, the above sessions cost \$15, payable at the door.

The second segment contains two sessions on Sun. morning, Feb. 27, again in the Redd/Watkins Vo-Tech Building. On that morning, the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops will take place. Choose one workshop from 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Frances Doss on the importance of journal writing OR Alan Huffman on doing research in Africa OR Billy Ray Reynolds on sound making for films). Choose another workshop from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (Ronald Davis on Records of Free Blacks in Adams County, Miss., OR Elizabeth Shown Mills on genealogy today).

From 10:30-11 a.m. on Sun., Feb. 27, a reception honoring Ellen Douglas will take place. (Ellen Douglas is the pen name of the Natchez-born author Josephine Haxton.)

The other parts of the Celebration are mostly free at the Natchez Convention Center. They begin at 2 p.m., Wed., Feb. 23, and go through Sat. evening, Feb. 26. Take a look at an NLCC brochure found in Co-Lin lobbies or Co-Lin libraries, or visit the web site for the complete agenda: www.colin.edu/nlcc.

One ticketed event is a fabulous Creole jazz concert at 8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 25, at the Natchez Convention Center by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders. This group regularly tours Europe and the United States and is always featured at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. Tickets are a mere \$10.

To get your tickets, stop by the office of Mr. Mark LaFrancis, Director of Public Information on the Natchez Campus. His office is across from the Admissions Office in the Reed Academic Building.

2005 part 1
page 25

Magazine to feature city retirement

2005's first
 issue
 1

By JOHN GARDNER
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — When a better magazine will feature Natchez in its January/February issue, what was mailed to subscribers Friday and will be on newsstands later this month.

The magazine, founded in 1992 and now operating monthly on 200,000 readers, operates from communities in each of its six issues during the year, and Karen Northridge, general manager for When in Natchez,

Community

Content information

With the January-February issue, the magazine has planned "to try to be somewhat general," Northridge said. "For the first time, the magazine will be in every airport throughout the country. It's also always available at Barnes and Noble and Borders."

Choosing Natchez for inclusion in the upcoming issue was a process that began years ago, she said. "Our editors and consulting editors passed through the various leading air communities with our own characteristics and features," Northridge said. "We had been aware of Natchez for some time. One of our editors spent more time there and was thoroughly impressed."

Natchez is not featured on the cover but is included in a cover story on the article. "It's probably the most important article this," Northridge said. "Natchez is our 'underground layer,' it's where we do each month."

Northridge said visits to Natchez included time with Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce and Business Partnership directors.

Ray Wadsworth, director of Natchez Business Partnership, said he introduced the first feature writer and the photographer to her employer and one simply person who recently chose Natchez as their retirement home.

The magazine has a policy of not covering names of those interviewed for stories and the items have reached subscribers.

"They asked the writers why they came and when they thought about Natchez," Wadsworth said of the magazine representatives he put. "They stayed at Doubletree, and they wanted to see the town. I gave them the same kind of tour I

The Natchez Democrat

50¢

Monday, January 1, 2005
www.thenatchezdemocrat.com

MISSISSIPPI EDITION

Retirement

Continued from 1A

give visitors who come to look at the city."

Natchez is one of 19 certified retirement communities in Mississippi. Wadsworth said, "I never met a town just for retirees, though."

Laura Godfrey, Chamber CEO, agreed. "The quality of life for retirees as well as the amenities looking to move cannot be beat," she said.

Ray and Joanne Adair-Bohler moved to Natchez about five years ago. Not entirely ready to retire, the couple nonetheless considered Natchez their retirement destination.

"We came from a large city, New Orleans," Ray Adair-Bohler said. "All the health and health, the things people find wanting about aging, we didn't find wanting."

The slower pace and the ease of getting involved in organizations and meeting new friends have been bonuses, he said. "We didn't have as many friends in New Orleans as we have made in Natchez in the past few years," Joanne agreed, adding that "Natchez has been more than I could ever have hoped for."

The Adair-Bohlers opened a new business and a local and broader commitment to Natchez.

Northridge said each of the 200,000 people living there help to create. Dozens of stores and hundreds of services actively seek retirees.

Natchez has had success in the last few years in attracting retirees, Wadsworth said, pointing out that each portion of opening up that each portion of opening up comes with different desires

for a new home. "We stress all the activities in Natchez," he said. "We have something going on in Natchez the year around."

These activities, such as the Great Mississippi River Ballroom Race, the Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration, Natchez Festival of Music, Spring Pilgrimage and Fall Pilgrimage, touring clubs, offer opportunities for exciting volunteer work, Wadsworth said.

Further, for those retirees not ready to stop working completely, there are part-time jobs across the city or in small retail shops catering to tourists, he said.

"In the last 25 or 30 years have come to Natchez, at least a 50% have started their own small businesses," Wadsworth said.

Godfrey said people all over Mississippi seek to Natchez as "the top retirement community in the state."

Preservation of its historic character is key to the quality of life, and others find in Natchez, she said.

Indeed, Wadsworth said many retirees are drawn to the many activities in Natchez. "Many retirees like the older homes. The historic homes in Natchez are wonderful."

Natchez Business Partnership is affiliated with Mississippi Retirement, a division of the Mississippi Development Authority. The partnership is operated through the Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority and can be reached by e-mail at retirement@msdpa.com.



Joanne and Ray Adair-Bohler, outside their home in Natchez Friday, moved to Natchez from New Orleans five years ago and plan to eventually retiring here.



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To: Center Advisory Committee
From: CRW
Subject: Natchez meeting and Center activities
Date: January 7, 2005

Greetings and Happy New Year! We had a busy and productive fall semester, and we are looking forward to many activities this spring.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be February 27 in Natchez, as part of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. The Center will be hosting a reception at the Natchez Celebration on Saturday, February 26, followed by attendance at an awards ceremony, and then dinner at the Cock of the Walk. The next morning we will gather at Elgin Plantation for our Advisory Committee meeting and breakfast. Thanks, as always, to Ruth Ellen Calhoun for hosting us there and thanks also to Carolyn Vance Smith for another great Natchez program and for her assistance with our reception.

Enclosed is a form to let us know if you will be able to attend some or all of the Natchez activities. Please return it to us by January 28, 2005.

I wanted to mention how pleased we were with the American South, Then and Now Symposium and the L. Q. C. Lamar Society Reunion in November. We had a stellar group of influential Southern leaders for three days of stimulating presentations about the South's past and future.

The meetings were particularly significant in kicking off the activities of the Endowment for the Future of the South. As you know, one of our challenges in the coming year will be raising the remaining matching funds for the Hardin Foundation grant that will confirm the Center's role as a leader in preparing for the South's future.

Enclosed you will find an updated copy of the Center Advisory Committee members list and the Natchez Celebration schedule. You may also check their Web site for additional information: www.colin.edu/nlcc. If any information on the contact list is incorrect, please e-mail or fax Sally Lyon (slyon@olemiss.edu) with updates.

Thanks for all of your encouragement and support. We hope to see you soon in Natchez.

A Great American Public University
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2005 part 1
page 27

file NLCC publicity

In Co-LiN The Place to Be **CO LIN** NATCHEZ

Campus newsletter - January 20, 2005

classes, as well as the master's program, according to Dr. Steve Wells, associate dean and professor of accounting at ASU.

In addition, the building will house a 500-seat auditorium and an up-to-date library.

MBA marketing director Joe Wild said that officials were planning to inspect the work soon with school leaders hopeful to move in sometime in late January or early February.

Enrollment remains above 800

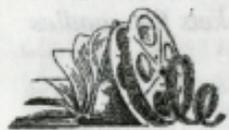
Enrollment for the spring semester remained above 800 for the second year in a row. As of Tuesday, Jan. 18, Co-Lin Natchez had 849 full- and part-time students.

Issues discussions: lively and informative

History instructor James Wiggins is again hosting his Friday morning "Current Issues Discussion Group" sessions, which were started just after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Discussions often are lively and informative, and frequently involve students, staff, and visitors. Topics range from world affairs to national politics. The sessions meet Fridays at 11 a.m. in the academic activity room near the Bookstore. (Note: The Friday, Jan. 21 session will be in the Library Conference Room.)

NLCC gearing up for another program



The highly acclaimed Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will be hosting its annual program Feb. 23-26.

There will be a wide range of lectures, presentations, tours, films, and special workshops focusing on literature and this year's theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

Special seminars will be held Wednesday, Feb. 23 with lectures about poets Maya Angelou and Frank Stanford, and journal-writer William Johnson, who lived in Natchez and was one of the few free blacks during the era of slavery. Johnson's restored home and barber shop on Main Street will be dedicated during the NLCC.

The seminars will begin at 11 a.m. in the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Room, and will include readings by Co-Lin students from their journals. Students and staff are welcomed as helpers in a variety of ways. Contact Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman, or Marsha Colson, her assistant. They have offices near the Bookstore.

N-Sights is selling tickets to the concert by Don Vappie and the Creole Serenaders (one of the nation's best Creole Jazz groups) on Friday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. at the Natchez Convention Center. Tickets are \$10 each. Please see an N-Sights member or stop by the Office of Public Information.

2005 part 1
page 28

Smith, Carolyn Vance

From: LaFrancis, Mark
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2005 3:37 PM
To: Colin Everyone
Subject: Tickets for Upcoming NLCC Concert

Hello, everyone:

N-Sights is selling tickets to a rousing, foot-stompin' concert by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders, of New Orleans. There's is one of the foremost Creole jazz bands in the land. Don't take my word ... see the review below. The concert will be one of the highlights of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

"Think of 'traditional' or 'classic' New Orleans jazz and what comes to mind? The scratches, lisses, and pops of a mono recording from the dawn of the recording era? A group of venerable musicians faithfully playing the same old tunes, ... according to the same old formula ... Well, that's changing now, thanks to Don Vappie and his group of 'Creole Jazz Serenaders,' who, like an afternoon dose of café au lait and beignets, are putting the life back into this great artform."

Jonathan Tabak, Offbeat Magazine

The concert will be at the Natchez Convention Center Friday evening Feb. 25 beginning at 8. N-Sights will receive part of the ticket sale. Tickets are \$10 each. Checks should be made out to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Please let me know how many tickets you want, or stop by the Office of Public Information. (I've got my two reserved already.)

For a complete look at this year's outstanding NLCC program, go to:

www.colin.edu/nlcc

For a look at Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders, go to the web site:

<http://vappieie.com/creolejazz.htm>

Thank you

Mark LaFrancis
Director of Public Information
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
 11 Co-Lin Circle
 Natchez, MS 39120
PHONE: 601-446-1205
FAX 601-446-1296

1/20/2005

2005 part 1
 page 29

file
NLCC
publicity

MEMORANDUM

TO: Friends Board of Directors
FROM: Katherine Crump
DATE: January 27, 2005
RE: Friends Board Meeting

The February meeting of Friends of Mississippi Public Broadcasting has been scheduled for Friday, February 25 in the **Concordia Room** of the Natchez Convention Center from **3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** As discussed at our October board meeting, the date and venue will coincide each year with the Natchez Literary Cinema Celebration and will enable our members to take advantage of all the stellar events from Wednesday, February 23 – Sunday, February 27, if you choose to do so.

A block of rooms is reserved for Friends and MPB staff at the Isle of Capri. If you choose to stay at the Isle, the special room rate is \$35.00 a day. Please be sure and mention that you are a Friends board member with NLCC when making your reservations. The toll free number to the Isle is 800-722-5825.

Friends of Mississippi Public Broadcasting will be sponsoring a reception from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the home of John and Valerie Bergeron, 310 South Pearl Street following the meeting. The enclosed brochure contains details and a schedule of this year's celebration. A map of directions to the convention center is also included.

So plan to join us for our board meeting and reception in lovely early-spring Natchez during this year's literary celebration and take advantage of a rare opportunity to enjoy some fun and fellowship with other members of the MPB family, as well as meet and converse with some of Mississippi's most distinguished literary figures. For planning purposes, it is necessary for us to have a good idea of who will be attending. Please let us know your plans by completing and returning the response card by February 14, 2005. Should you have any questions, please contact Shirley Labranche at (601) 432-6390 or at Shirley.Labranche@mpbonline.org.

See you in Natchez!

2005 part 1
page 30

WS / EDUCATION

16th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Who were Free Blacks in the South preceding the Civil War? Were they better off than slaves? Were they semi-slaves? Were they treated compassionately by white people? Or did they enjoy the full rights of whites?

"The truth will be told about this unusual group of people in American history at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990 and have guided it into what is called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

The Celebration has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

The 2005 conference theme is

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." It is set for Feb. 23-27, 2005, with headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street downtown Natchez.

"We think the 2005 conference will be our strongest yet," Smith said. "We began with a riveting subject and added Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, nationally known scholars and beautiful Natchez as a living museum that relates directly to the subject of the conference."

Natchez as a living museum is exemplified in the William Johnson House, built by a Free Black in Natchez, which will be officially opened to the public by the National Park Service during the conference.

Free dedication ceremonies, set for 9 a.m., Feb. 26, 2005, will attract national, state and local governmental and tourism leaders as well as conference-goers, the general public and media representatives.

Among the speakers at the conference are the following:

* Ira Berlin, University of

Creole Series, on master-slave sexual dynamics and slaveholding by free people of



The William Johnson House

Photo by Ben Hillier, used courtesy of the Natchez Democrat

Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*, on Free Blacks in the South

* Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on Free Blacks from Natchez to New Orleans

* Ruth and Jim Coy on Robert D. Smith, a Free Black of Natchez, whose home, Bontura, will be the site of the Celebration's annual gala benefit party Feb. 26

* Douglas Inglis, Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain, on Free Blacks during the Colonial period

* Alex Kronemer, documentary film maker of Silver Spring, Md., on Ibrahima, an African prince who was a slave in Natchez

* Sybil Kein, New Orleans, author of *Gumbo People* and *Creole: The History and Legacy of Louisiana's Free People of Color*, on Louisiana Creole cultural heritage

* Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., author of *Isle of Canes and Cane River*

color

* William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M University, on Robert Penn Warren's *Band of Angels*

* Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, on Black barbers and the structure of Free Black society

* William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative

* Leonard P. Curry of University of Louisville, on Free Blacks in the urban South

* Virginia Meacham Gould, New Orleans, on women in the William Johnson family

* Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., on Black masters and their role as misunderstood slave owners

* Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C., Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel, *The Known World*

See LITERARY Page 8

LITERARY

Continued from page 3

The conference's festive annual award ceremony will be at 6 p.m., Feb. 26. Winning the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award are William Raspberry, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Washington Post, and Mildred D. Taylor, author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, which won the American Library Association's Newbery Award.

Winning the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Callie Khouri, author of the films *Thelma & Louise* and *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*.

Enhancing the lecture series and award events are films, including *Band of Angels*, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, and a segment about Bonhara from the *History Detective Series*; a concert of Creole Jazz by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans; tours of the William Johnson House; a standard flower show in six historic homes sponsored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club, called "Exploring William Johnson's World"; walking tours called "William Johnson's Natchez"; a luncheon with music of the 1850s by Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez; three receptions; exhibits; and discussion sessions.

Prior to the conference on Feb. 23 are seminars at Co-Lin Natchez by Susanne B. Dietzel, Loyola University, on Maya Angelou; Ethel Young-Minor, The University of Mississippi, on Mississippi and Black writers; Murray Shugars, Alcorn State University, on Mississippi poet Frank Stanford; and Lester Sullivan, Xavier University, on William

Johnson of Natchez, whose diaries inspired *William Johnson's Natchez: The Antebellum Diary of a Free Negro and The Barber of Natchez*.

Concluding the conference are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops. Frances Doss of the Alcorn State University Writing Project will discuss journal writing; Alan Huffman, author of *Mississippi in Africa*, will discuss doing primary research in Africa; Billy Ray Reynolds, singer/songwriter of Nashville, will discuss creating sound and music for screenplays, films and video; Ronald L. F. Davis, California State University, Northridge, will discuss doing primary research of Free Blacks in Adams County, Miss.; and Elizabeth Shown Mills, Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, will discuss genealogy today.

Most of the conference is free. To get tickets for the luncheon, one reception, the concert, the gala benefit party, and pre- and post-conference seminars and workshops, and to get information, call toll-free 1-866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289. Or email Christy.Williams@colin.edu or visit the web site, www.colin.edu/nlcc.

Sponsors of the NLCC are Co-Lin, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Conference co-chairmen with Carolyn Vance Smith are Keith Whisenant of the NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoon of MPB.

The conference is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Article submitted by Carolyn Vance Smith

2005 part 1
page 32



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Post Office Box 1807
Natchez, MS 39221-1807
Phone 601-444-1288, Fax 601-444-1289
E-mail Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu
Website www.colin.edu/natchez

February 2005

To: William Winter Scholars 2005
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NAAC Co-chairman, Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
Natchez, Miss.
Re: Welcome!

Congratulations on being named to the prestigious, statewide group called the William Winter Scholars. Winners are so called in honor of former Mississippi Governor William Winter, who has been director of proceedings at the Celebration since it began in 1990. We are so pleased you will be with us at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, February 21-27, 2005.

You were chosen because you are an Outstanding Student or Outstanding Faculty Member/Administrator in the Humanities Division at your institution. Other honorees hail from Mississippi's colleges, community colleges, universities, or schools, grades 9-12.

Each winner will receive a \$40 scholarship that pays for four seminars Wednesday morning, February 23, (a \$10 ticket), a concert Friday evening, February 25 (a \$10 ticket), and two Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops Sunday morning, February 27 (a \$10 ticket). Your tickets may be picked up at the registration desk at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle, Natchez, on Wednesday morning, February 23, or at the registration desk at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street, after that time.

Winners are encouraged to attend the entire Celebration. Most of the conference is free, but certain events in addition to the seminars and writing workshops are ticketed. If you wish to buy tickets to any events for yourself, your friends or family, please call the ticket office, 1-866-296-6122 or 601-444-1288, and pay with a credit card. See enclosed brochure for agenda and ticket form information.

Here is some special information just for you as a William Winter Scholar:

- Please be present at 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 23, for the conference's opening ceremonies at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main St., in downtown Natchez. You will be asked to stand with other William Winter Scholars for recognition as a group.
- Please go to the speaker platform to have a William Winter Scholars Group photograph made, following the last afternoon program on Wednesday, February 23. This will be about 4:30 p.m. Members of the William Winter family will be in the photograph with you.
- Please be present at 6 p.m., Saturday, February 26, at the Convention Center for the Awards Ceremony. You will again be asked to stand to be recognized as a group.

If you need assistance, please email me at Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu or call me at 1-601-444-1288. Again, congratulations!

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2005 print 1
page 33

Vienna Boys Choir

Copiah-Lincoln Conference &...

City Park Players

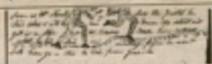
318/443-4718

February 17 - 20, 24 - 27

A Reason In the Sun
Brighthelm Park Theatre
Thurs. - Sat., 7:30 p.m.
Sun., 2:00 p.m.
Admission: \$13 Adults and Senior
Citizens, \$8 Students
Alexandria, Louisiana
318/484-4463 or
www.cityparkplayers.org

February 18
Spinning School Program
Audubon State Historic Site
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
St. Francisville, Louisiana
888/677-2838

February 18
University of Southern Mississippi
International String Ensemble
Church of the Holy Trinity
12:05 p.m.
Vicksburg, Mississippi



February 23 - 27
Natchez Literary & Cinema
Celebration 2005
Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi
601/446-1289 or 866/296-6522

February 25
1800s Children's Games
Centenary Historic Site
10:00 a.m.
Jackson, Louisiana
888/677-2364 or 225/634-7925

February 25
Mississippi State University Brass
Quintet
Church of the Holy Trinity
12:05 p.m.
Vicksburg, Mississippi
601/636-0542

2005 part 1
page 34

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS WANTING CEUs at the 2005 NLCC

To: All teachers wanting CEUs for attending the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Re: Details concerning CEUs

Welcome! To be certain you receive your CEUs, be sure your name and address are registered with Millicent Mayo and that you have paid either \$75 for up to 35 hours (3.5 CEUs) or \$65 for fewer hours (thus, fewer CEUs). Please pay in advance. If you cannot, please find Millicent in the lobby of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus, before 8 a.m., Wed., Feb. 23, 2005, or at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street prior to the opening ceremony at 2 p.m., Wed., Feb. 23, 2005. She can be reached after that at her Natchez-Adams School District office on Homochitto St. Her phone number is 601-445-0217.

You must SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT at the NLCC to receive your hours, showing PHOTO IDENTIFICATION. You must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of each session (morning, afternoon, or evening) to sign in so that your hours can be easily tallied. You will not receive the hours if you arrive more than 15 minutes after a segment has begun. You must sign out when you leave, showing photo ID and giving time of departure.

To receive all 35 hours (3.5 CEUs) you must attend conference sessions beginning at 8 a.m., Wed., Feb. 23, at Copiah-Lincoln and ending at 1 p.m., Sun., Feb. 27. Most of the conference is at the Natchez Convention Center, but watch the schedule for place changes. To receive fewer hours and thus fewer CEUs, you simply sign in and out of sessions you attend. To sign in, look for a person with a sign-up sheet at the following times:

WED., FEB. 23

- 7:45-8:15 a.m., Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle
1:30-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main St.
7:30 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

THURS., FEB. 24

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center (Segment from 9-10:30 a.m. worth 1.5 hours or .15 CEU) To receive CEUs you may choose to attend either the program at the Convention Center OR the panel program at Natchez High School, both scheduled 9-10:30 a.m.
10:45-11:30 a.m., Natchez Convention Center (You must sign in and out of the morning segments, no matter where you attend the 9 a.m. session.)
1:45-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
7:15-7:45 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

FRI., FEB. 25

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center
1:30-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
7:30-8:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

SAT., FEB. 26

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center
12:30-1:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
4 p.m., William Johnson House
5 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
5:45-6:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
7:45-8:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

SUN., FEB. 27

- 8-8:45 a.m., Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle

N-Sights

The campus newspaper of **Copiah-Lincoln Community College Natchez**

February 2005

Vol. 32, No. 3

2

N-Sights - February 2005

NLCC worker earns top honor

N-Sights Staff

Marsha Colson, office manager for the Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration, recently received the Co-Lin High Performance Award, the highest honor an employee can earn.

Colson was presented the honor by Co-Lin President Dr. Howell C. Garner.

Garner said, "This is truly an honor for me to present this award to Marsha."

"Marsha is a terrific employee and an equally terrific person," said Green McCalip, acting dean of the Natchez campus.

She has worked at Co-Lin since August 2000, her job includes handling all office functions for the

NLCC, an award-winning literary and cultural program founded and co-sponsored by Co-Lin. See this year's program on Pages 14-17.

Colson previously worked at Fruit of the Loom's Vidalia Apparel plant and Lady Luck Casino (now Isle of Capri).

She received a bachelor of arts degree California State College and attended Millsaps College.

She is a former board member of



Co-Lin President Howell Garner hugs Marsha Colson, office manager for the Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration, after presenting her with the High Performance Award. Looking on is Caroly Vance Smith, NLCC founder and co-chairman.

the Natchez Association for the Advancement of Afro-American Culture, and volunteers with the United Way, Trinity School and the American Heart Association.



Patricia Jefferson



Beverly Kimball



NLCC ready for
16th year
Pages 14-17

Students of
the month
Page 2

2005 part 1
page 35

NLCC: A celebration of books, music and film

More on Pages 15-17

Schedule on Page 17

One of the South's most prestigious programs of its kind kicks off its 16th year Wednesday, Feb. 23. And, many of the programs are free and open to Co-Lit students and staff.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, winner of a variety of awards including an Olympic Award, will focus on the topic "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

"This is a marvelous series of programs and presentations," said Gwen McCallip, acting dean of the Natchez campus.

"I encourage all our students and staff to take part as much as they can, particularly in the programs on our own campus," she said.

McCallip added, "We are fortunate that Co-Lit not only is the founder of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, but is the co-sponsor as well."

Anyone who attends the programs will be enlightened about Free Blacks, said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman, and a retired Co-Lit Natchez instructor.

"The truth will be told about this unusual group of people in American history at the 16th annual



NLCC
Feb. 23-27

www.celias.edu/nlcc

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," Smith said.

Smith and Co-Lit have guided the NLCC into what is called by official evaluations "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture." The Celebration has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

Johnson House Dedication

See story on Page 15

Free dedication ceremonies, set for 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, will attract national, state and local governmental and tourism leaders as well as conference-goers, the gener-

al public and media representatives.

Richard Wright Ceremony

See story below

The center's festive annual award ceremony will be at 6 p.m., Feb. 26.

Special Program at Co-Lit

See schedule on Page 17

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, are seminars at Co-Lit Natchez by Susanne B. Dietrich, Loyola University, on Maya Angelou, Ellen Young-Mason, The University of Mississippi, on Mississippi and Black writers; Marny Stugan, Alcorn State University, on Mississippi poet Frank Stanford; and Loretta Sullivan, Xavier University, on William Johnson of Natchez, whose diaries inspired "William Johnson's Natchez: The Anti-Slavery Diary of a Free Negro" and "The Barber of Natchez."

Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops at Co-Lit Natchez

See schedule on Page 17

Concluding the conference on Sunday, Feb. 27, are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops. The workshops are free to Co-Lit students.

The NLCC sponsors are Co-Lit, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Auction to boost NEH grant

NLCC is raffling four spectacular packages to help match a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at any NLCC event at Co-Lit or at the Natchez Convention Center.

"The River Explorer Package"

An all-inclusive trip for two on the River Explorer, the only hotel built on America's waterways, for up to eight days. Also included are accommodations, meals, round-the-clock snacks, coffee, soft drinks, all gratuities (no tipping allowed), taxes, port charges, onboard entertainment and scheduled shore excursions.

"The Rainwater Counts Package"

A first-edition (1948) copy of Rainwater County by Ross Lockridge with the original cover, a book that was reprinted after being banned in many libraries. A video of the movie, "Rainwater County." The movie was filmed partially in Natchez and at the Windsor Plantation ruins near Port Gibson.

An overnight stay at Rosewood Plantation, a lush and guided tour of the Port Gibson area, including the ruins of Windsor. A souvenir program from the Louisville, Ky., world premiere of the movie in 1957. A framed print, signed and

numbered, by artist Alice Thornton. An 11" x 14" portrait by award-winning Natchez photographer, T.G. McCarty.

"Gone with the Wind Package"

An overnight stay at Monmouth Plantation in Natchez. An artist's rendition of Vivian Leigh, donated by Dr. Van Craig of Natchez. A Scarlett O'Hara framed portrait, a Rhett Butler poster. Gone with the Wind novel. Gone with the Wind DVD. A Civil War CD, "Privates to the Front," by Nashville singer-songwriter Billy Ray Reynolds. Sheet music of "Tara's Theme," Miss Scarlett's key, donated by Old South. Wreny of Natchez.

"Books, Books, Books Package"

The Barber of Natchez and William Johnson's Natchez. The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. The South as Perspective: An Anthology of Southern Literature and The Writer's Handbook. The Broker, signed by author John Gildham, Blood Memory, signed by author Greg Iles, and Mississippi in Alabama by Alan Hoffman. The Heart by Tom Mortson. The Last Train North and Eight Habits of the Heart by Clifton Taulbert. And much more.

Award winners reflect variety of style and genre

Winning prestigious awards at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration are three Southerners, all of whom have won national awards for their writings. They will be present to receive the awards and autograph copies of their books after the ceremony.

The annual awards will be presented in ceremonies at 6 p.m., Sat., Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center. The event is free and open to the public. It is the culmination of the conference, Feb. 23-27, 2005, which uses the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

Winning one of two 2005 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards is William Raspberry, born in Okotoma, Miss., and now of Washington, D.C. A longtime syndicated columnist for The Washington Post, he has

won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Raspberry is the Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at the DeWitt Wallace Center and the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, Durham, N.C. He is also author of Looking Backward at Us.

Also winning a 2005 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award is Mildred D. Taylor, a native of Jackson, Miss., now of Boulder, Colo. She has won The New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year Award for Song of the Trees (1975); the American Library



Taylor



Khouri



Raspberry

Association's Newbery Award for Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (1976); ALA Best Books for Young Adults Award for Let the Circle Be Unbroken (1981); and the Carver Scott King Award for The Friendship (1987).

The Road to Memphis (1990) and The Land (2001).

Winner of the 2005 Hurston Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Caille Chouhry, a native of Texas who lived in Kentucky before moving to Los Angeles. She is author of the screenplay Thelma & Louise, which won an Oscar from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Writers Guild of America award for "Best Original Screenplay" and the Golden Globe and PEN Literary awards.

She also wrote Something to Talk About for Warner Brothers Pictures in 1995, starring Dennis Quaid, Julia Roberts, Gena Rowlands, Robert Duval and Kyla Sedgwick. She also wrote Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.

2005 part 1
page 36

Co-Lin, area students follow in Johnson's 'footsteps'

The Natchez Democrat and N-Sights Staff

Times have changed a little since William Johnson's days in the 1800s, but the experiment of keeping a journal can still be the same.

Area high school and college students who participated in the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's Journal Writing Contest did just what Johnson did, and some are receiving accolades for their work.

English class assignments for the contest instructed students to write a journal entry each day for two weeks. Natchez High, Trinity Episcopal, Cathedral School and Co-Lin Natchez students participated.

Former Co-Lin English teacher and judging committee chairman Carolyn Owin said it was interesting to see what today's youth were doing.

"It was an effort to see what was going on in the modern world," Owin said. "They write very well



NLCC
Feb. 23-27

www.colin.edu/nlcc

and with a great sense of detail, and as you read you can spot the ones who just put something on paper.

"It was interesting to see how honest they were about their everyday activities."

Ten winners from each school were chosen and from the high school winners 10 were selected to read their entries on "Rural Voices

Radio" on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The students traveled to Jackson to tape the programs and they will air this month.

The contest winners will receive two free tickets to a jazz concert to be held during the NLCC.

Winners of the Co-Lin Journal Writing Contest are John M. Brown, Kristin Cox, Catina Dorsey, Candace Hawkins, Marnie Lee Moore, Keya Netherland, Allison Parks, Lori Scraggs, Jennifer Trait and Jimmy Whites. Dorsey, Trait and Whites will read from their journals during a special program on campus Wednesday, Feb. 23 in the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Rooms. Their portion of the program will begin at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

"We were impressed with the writing abilities of each student," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "All of the journal entries provided a unique and valuable reflection on the city of Natchez."



Photo by Ben Elliott, The Natchez Democrat

The beautifully restored William Johnson House on State Street in downtown Natchez will be dedicated during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Ceremonies are Saturday, 9 a.m. The public is invited.

2005 part 1
page 37

2005 part 1
page 38

Winter reflects on 16 years with the NLCC

Interview by Sarah Allen
N-Sights staff

The Natchez Literary Cinema Celebration is right around the corner. William F. Winter, who has been the director of proceedings for the NLCC for 16 years, answers a few questions on his feelings toward the NLCC. Winter is former governor of Mississippi. He also served as Mississippi State Treasurer and Lieutenant Governor and was a state representative. He is the contributing author of three books: "History of Mississippi," "Yesterday's Constitution" and "Mississippi Histories."

N-Sights: Please describe why you became involved with the NLCC.

Winter: "I became involved with NLCC when Carolyn Smith invited me to serve as the director of proceedings at the first meeting, and I have enjoyed it so much that I have continued to serve at her invitation each succeeding year."

N-Sights: How important is the NLCC to Mississippi?

Winter: "The NLCC is important to Mississippi because it is the one annual event that brings to our state writers, artists, historians, perform-

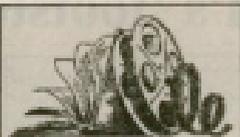


N-Sights staff photo by Matt LaFrance

ers and other accomplished individuals to share their knowledge and talent related to a range of fascinat-

ing themes and subjects involving Mississippi.

"It is a rare and intriguing educa-



NLCC
Feb. 23-27

www.colts.edu/nlcc

tional experience."

N-Sights: How has the NLCC affected you?

Winter: "The NLCC has provided me with a unique opportunity to learn about and be associated with a great many outstanding and talented people, few if any of whom I would have gotten to know but for the Natchez experience," says Winter.

N-Sights: What have you learned about the literary world as director of proceedings?

Winter: "By virtue of getting to introduce or hear introduced so many celebrated figures I have

developed a special interest in their lives and backgrounds and have been inspired by their extraordinary accomplishments."

N-Sights: Please tell about a moment that you'll never forget.

Winter: "I shall never forget the program when Myrtle Ivens Williams held us spellbound with many in the audience in tears as she recalled her life with Modjar and the joys and the tragedy that have been marked with her brave and indomitable career."

N-Sights: Can you please tell about a person you'll never forget and why?

Winter: "Eudora Welty, who spoke and gave a reading at a luncheon. In spite of her modest and unpretentious manner we could not be unmindful of the fact that we were in the presence of literary genius."

N-Sights: Are there any other thoughts you can share with us?

Winter: "The experience that my family and I have had at the NLCC over the years ranks as among the most memorable and delightful of any that we have ever had. I wish that every Mississippian could attend at least one NLCC."

2,505 part 1
page 39

Winter reflects on 16 years with the NLCC

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N-Sights staff photo by Mark LaFrance

William F. Winter addresses the audience at the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards ceremony in 2003 at the Natchez Convention Center. In the foreground is a portrait photograph of Richard Wright.

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ing themes and subjects involving Mississippi.



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Feb. 23-27

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A look at the NLCC schedule

All programs, unless indicated, are free and open to the public

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Co-Lin Natchez, W.L. Nelson
Multi-Purpose Room

Pre-conference Seminars, "Studying Southern Writers" (\$15) Fee to Co-Lin staff and students

9 a.m. "Alya Angelina, Feminist," Suzanne B. Ditzel, Director, Loyola Women's Resource Center, Loyola University, New Orleans, La.

9 a.m. "Mississippi in the Imagination of Black Writers," Edith Young-Mason, Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, The University of Mississippi

10 a.m. "Mississippi Poet Frank Stanford," Murray Shapiro, Professor of English, Missouri State University

11 a.m. "William Johnson: Natchez Journalist About Town," Lester Sullivan, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans. Followed by the Reading of Selected Writings Excerpts of Journal Pages by Co-Lin students.

2 p.m. Natchez Convention Center Conference Grand Opening, Welcome, and Introductions

2:15 p.m. "Free Blacks in the South: An Overview," Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South, Many Thousands Gone: The First Free-Casteles of Slavery in North America, and Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves

3:30 p.m. "Free Black People from Natchez to New Orleans," Lester Sullivan, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections, Xavier University, New Orleans, with Slides

4:30-5:30 p.m. Free Reception Honoring Robert Hilliard Upon His Retirement as Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Hank Holmes Upon His Becoming Director of MDAH

7:30 p.m. "Robert D. Smith: A Shortened Freedom," with Film Clip From the History Detective Series, Ruth Coy and James I. Coy, III, Owners of the Robert D. Smith House, Bonnet, Natchez, Miss.

Thurs., Feb. 24

9 a.m. Natchez Convention Center "Free Blacks during the Colonial Period in Mississippi," Douglas Ingalls, Director, The Texas Tech University Research Center, Sevilla, Spain

10:30 a.m. "Orations, an African Prince Tamed Slaves Turned Free," Alex Kwasman, Documentary Film Maker, Silver Spring, Md.

11:45 a.m. Luncheon, Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall (\$25). Followed by "Shoppings,"

Fields, and Fun: Natchez Music, 1840-1850," Mickey Davis and A Taste of Natchez, Natchez, Miss., and El Dorado, Ark.

2:00 p.m. "Isle of Canes and Issues of Conscience: Master-Slave Social Dynamics and Slavelibing by Free People of Color," Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., Isle of Canes: Cane River Creole Series, and Family and Social Patterns of the Colonial Louisiana Frontier

3:30 p.m. "Robert Penn Warren's Seed of Anger," William Bradford Clark, Professor of English, Texas A&M University, College Station

5:45-30 p.m. Reception (\$15), Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture, 301 Main Street

7:30 p.m. Showing of the film, Band of Angels, Based on Robert Penn Warren's Novel, Followed by a Coffeehouse Discussion Led by William Bradford Clark

Fri., Feb. 25

9 a.m. "Common Origins, Diverging Circumstances: Black Barbers and the Structure of Free Black Society," Douglas Brinkley, II, University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach. The Black Man's Razor at the White Man's Throat: Black Barbers and the African American Tradition of Entrepreneurship

10:30 a.m. "William Johnson and the African-American Narrative," William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, To Tell a Free Story

2 p.m. "Free Blacks in the Urban South," Leonard P. Curry, University of Louisville, The Free Black in Urban America 1800-1850: The Shadow of the Dream

3:30 p.m. "The Women in the William Johnson Family," Virginia Moushon Gould, Historian, Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans, La., Ousted to the Rock of Adversity: To Be Free, Black, & Female in the Old South, with an Interview of a William Johnson Family Descendant, Mary Louise Miller, Yavoo City, Miss.

5:45-30 p.m. Free Reception, Pleasant Hill, 310 South Pearl Street, Hosted by Friends of Mississippi Public Broadcasting

8 p.m. "Creole Jazz," a Concert by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders (50), New Orleans, La., with Commentary about Early Creole Music by Don Vappie

Sat., Feb. 26

9 a.m. William Johnson House, 2109 Stone Street. Commemorative and Grand Opening of the William Johnson House

10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tours of the William Johnson House, 2109 Stone Street

9 p.m. "Black Masters: The

Misadventure Slaversword," Larry Ruyter, Washington, D.C., Black Slaversword: Free Black Slave Masters in South Carolina 1790-1840

1:45 p.m. Reading of Selections from His Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novel, The Known World, Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C.

2:30-5 p.m. "Exploiting William Johnson's World," a Flower Show Sponsored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club, Presented at Coyle House, Governor Hodges House, Greenlee, Griffith-Anderson Townhome, Holly Hodges, and Ursula, Historic Homes in the William Johnson Home Neighborhood, with Exhibits and Refreshments

2:30-5 p.m. "William Johnson's Natchez," series of Walking Tours of Downtown Natchez

5-6 p.m. Natchez Convention Center Free Reception, Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, with Remarks by Charles Reagan Wilson, CSCS Director

6 p.m. "An Evening with the Stars," a Festive Ceremony Honoring Writers Winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards Set Page 14

8 p.m. Convention Center A Showing of Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, with Coffeehouse Discussions Afterward Led by Callie Kloutier and Others

8 p.m. Convention Center A Showing of Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, with Coffeehouse Discussions Afterward Led by Callie Kloutier and Others

Sun., Feb. 27

8:00-11:00 a.m. Free to Co-Lin students

8:30-10:30 a.m. "The History and Importance of Journal Writing," Frances Doan, Natchez, Miss., Co-Director, The Alabama State University Writing Project

"Doing Primary Research in Mississippi and Africa," Alan Huffman, Bolton, Miss., Mississippi in Africa

"Creating Sound and Music for Screenplays, Film, and Video," Billy Ray Reynolds, Nashville, Tenn., Screenwriter, Screenplay Writer, Musician, and Actor

10:30-11 a.m. Reception Honoring the Award-winning Author Ellen Douglas (Pen Name of Natchez Native Josephine Hutton)

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Choose one of the following workshops.

"Shoppings with Primary Records of Free Blacks in Adams County, Miss.," Ronald L.F. Davis, California State University, Northridge, The Black Experience in Natchez, 1720-1880

"Reconstructing French Lives and Literary Models from the New Orleans Files of Cane River," Elizabeth Shown Mills, Sanford University Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research



Photo courtesy of the Natchez Library and Circus Celebration

1 Vappie will lead his internationally famous Creole Jazz Serenaders by night at the Natchez Convention Center.

Vappie and Creole Serenaders entertain concert-goers

et ready for a roaring, Vappie's concert by Don Vappie the Creole Jazz Serenaders, of Orleans.

fers in one of the foremost et jazz bands in the land. Don't say word... see the review o. The concert will be one of highlights of the Natchez rary and Circus Celebration.

south Tabak of Offbeat jurise said of Vappie, "Think of ritional" or "classic" New Orleans and what comes to mind? The ictes, blues, and pops of a o recording from the dawn of rording era? A group of velle musician faithfully playing some old tunes... according to some old formulas... Well, it's changing now. Thanks to Don igne and his group of Creole 2 Serenaders, who, like an after-on dose of café au lait and

biggest, are putting the life back into this great artform."

Jim Barnett of Natchez, a musician and a historian and a co-chairman of the library and circus celebration, said Vappie's group plays "a type of jazz that you really can't find many places, and it's distinctive to New Orleans."

Barnett said, "Don is a virtuoso on tenor sax. The tenor hangs in a four-string instrument used in New Orleans jazz, a very important part of New Orleans jazz."

The concert will be at the Natchez Convention Center Friday evening Feb. 25 beginning at 8. The concert will include a discussion about creole jazz music.

"Singles will receive part of the ticket sale. Tickets are \$10 each. Checks should be made out to NLCC or the Natchez Library and Circus Celebration.

2005 part 1
page 40

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9 a.m., Feb. 26, 2005

Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Historical Park,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Bluffs & Bayous ❧ February 2005 ❧ Page 42

2005 part 1
page 41

FREE
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February 2005

Bluffs & Bayous

Life Along the Mississippi

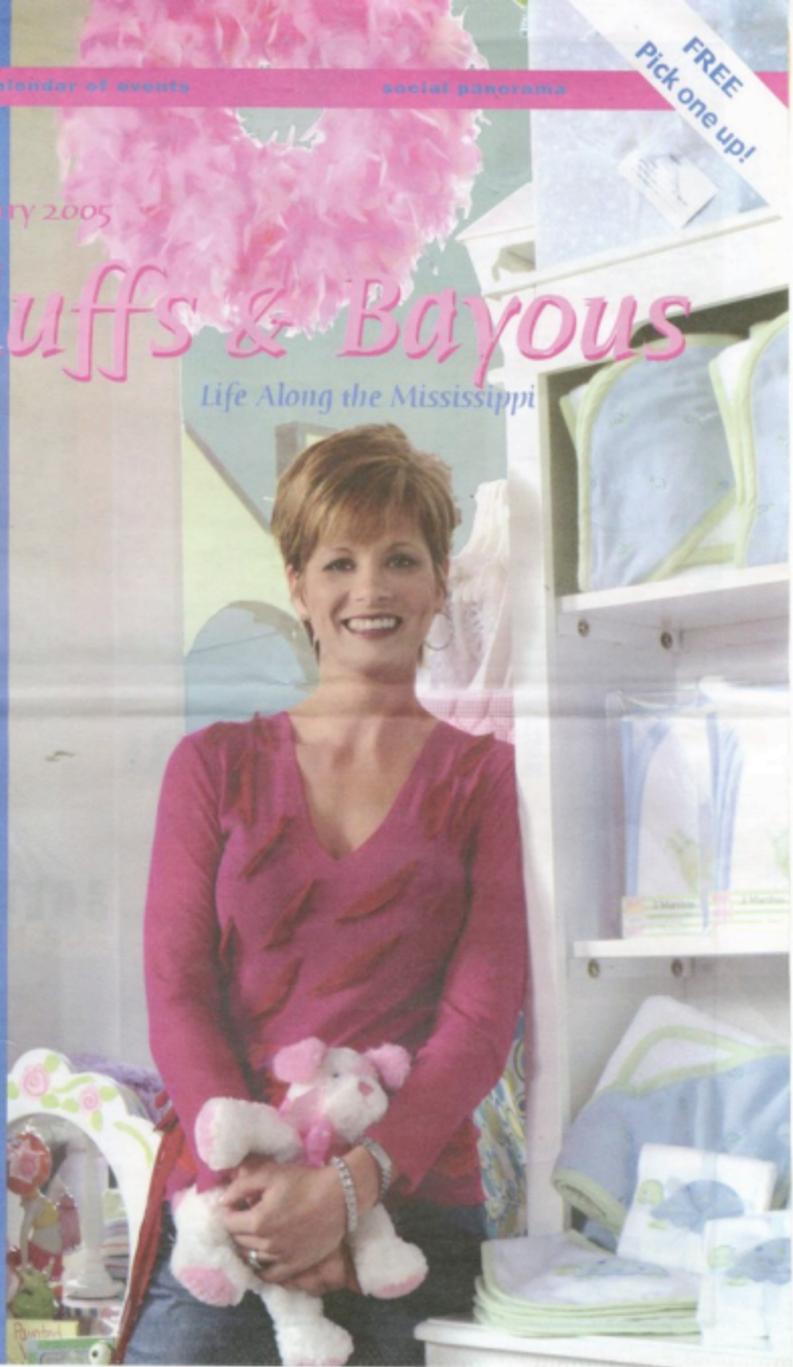
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Cinema
Celebration



2005 part 1
page 47



Accent on Academics

16th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Literary and cinema circles, February has become the signature month for one of the South's premier film and literary festivals—the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC)—now in its sixteenth year and scheduled for February 23 through 27 in Natchez, Mississippi.

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" is the focus of the 2005 event that is co-chaired by Carolyn Vance Smith, Keith Whisenot, Jim Barnett, and Marie Antoon. The Honorable William F. Wimer, former Governor of Mississippi and current President of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, serves as the celebration's Director of Proceedings, and its co-sponsors include Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The conference is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Described as "an annual thematic humanities event that ties together the historical, literary, political, social, artistic, and natural heritage of Mississippi and the South" through lectures, films, documentaries, programs, seminars,

workshops, discussions, concerts, dramatic presentations, exhibits, tours, field trips, book signings, and award ceremonies," the conference is headquartered at Natchez Convention Center.

However, its multiple venues also embrace the following locales: Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez campus; Natchez High School; Carriage House Restaurant at antebellum Stanton Hall; Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture; and the antebellum homes Pleasant Hill, William Johnson House, Bonfura, Coyle House, Governor Holmes House, Greenlea, Griffin-McConas Townhouse, Holly Hedges, and Texada.

Initiating the activities on February 23 are a series of pre-conference seminars "Studying Southern Writers" that focus on "Maya Angelou, Feminist"; "Mississippi in the Imagination of Black Writers"; "Mississippi Poet Frank Stanford"; and "William Johnson: Natchez Journalist about Town."

Following the official opening of the celebration at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, lectures continue through the afternoon, culminating in a reception honoring Elbert Hilliard, retiring Director of the



This house, once home of the Free Black William Johnson of Natchez, will be officially opened by the National Park Service at special ceremonies February 26 during the NLCC. The Park Service now owns and operates the house.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Hank Holman, the department's new director.

In addition to the literary and film presentations, the celebration offers a variety of related events. On Thursday concurrent with the celebrations' morning lectures at the Convention Center, high school students throughout the area are invited to Natchez High school for the discussion "William Johnson: Natchez Journalist about Town," presented by Lester Sullivan, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. Event-goers who gather for lunch at the Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall will

enjoy "Hoopskirts, Fiddlers, and Fun: Natchez, Mississippi, 1840-1850," compliments of musicians Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez.

Concluding Thursday's series of seminars, William Bradford Clark, Professor of English at Texas A & M University, will discuss Robert Penn Warren's novel *Band of Angels*. That evening, following a showing of the film *Band of Angels*, Clark will lead a Coffeehouse Discussion.

Complementing Friday's morning and afternoon of history and literary presentations is an early evening reception at antebellum Pleasant Hill, hosted by Friends of

continued on page 17

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2005 part 1
page 43

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FEBRUARY 4

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FEBRUARY 5

Krewe of Pheonix Grand Ball 601-446-9644

FEBRUARY 23 - 27

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
16th Annual Award Winning Conference
"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South"
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FEBRUARY 26

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2005 part 1
page 44

2005 part 1
page 45

**6th Annual Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration
February 23 - 27
Natchez, Mississippi**



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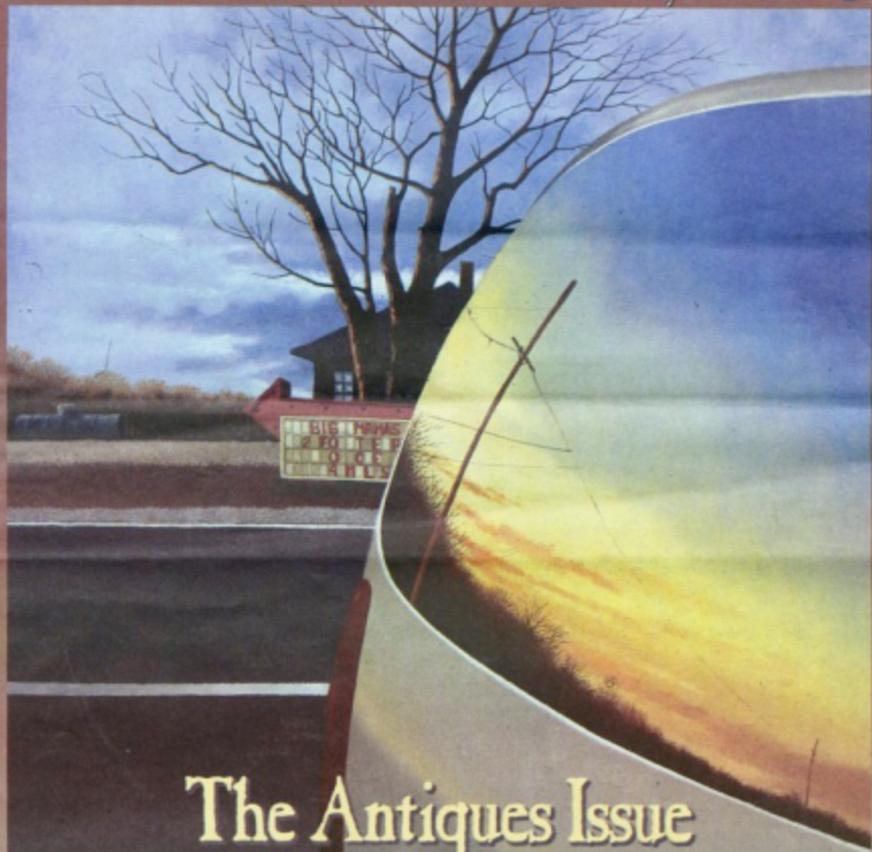
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2005 part 1
page 46

Service during the conference.

Among speakers attending are:

- Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*, on Free Blacks in the South
- Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on Free Blacks from Natchez to New Orleans
- Ruth and Jan Coy on Robert D. Smith, a Free Black of Natchez, whose home, Bontana, will be the site of the celebration's annual gala benefit party February 26
- Douglas English, Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain, on Free Blacks during the Colonial period
- Alex Kronemer, documentary filmmaker of *Silver Spring, Md.*, on Ibrahim, an African prince who was a slave in Natchez
- Sybil Kerr, New Orleans, author of *Gumbo People and Creole: The History and Legacy of Louisiana's Free People of Color*, on Louisiana Creole cultural heritage
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., author of *Idol of Gods and Case River Creek* series, on master-slave sexual dynamics and dowryholding by free people of color
- William Bedford Clark, Texas A&M University, on Robert Penn Warren's *Root of Aspidochelone*
- Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, on Black barbers and the structure of Free Black society
- William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative
- Leonard P. Curry of University of Louisville, on Free Blacks in the urban South
- Virginia Meacham Gould, New Orleans, on women in the William Johnson family
- Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., on Black masters and their role as non-slaveholding slave owners
- Edward P. Jones, Washington, D.C., Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel, *The Known World*

Between hosts of scholarship comes the annual award ceremony on February 26. Honored this year will be William Raspberry, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, Mildred D. Taylor, author of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, which won the American Library Association's Newbery Award, and Callie Khouri, author of the films *Thelma & Louise* and *Disclosure*.

Lagniappe comes in the form of film showings (*Band of Angels*, *Diase Series of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, and a segment about Bontana from the *History Detectives* Series), a concert of Creole Jazz by *Dixie Vagabond* and the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans, tours of the William Johnson House, a standard flower show in six historic homes, walking tours, a luncheon with 1850s music, three receptions, exhibits, and discussion sessions.

A variety of literary seminars scheduled at Copiah Lincoln Community College further explore the influence of Free Blacks in the South. Concluding the conference are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops, during which Frances Doss of the Auburn State University Writing Project will discuss journal writing. Alan Huffman, author of *Mississippi in Africa*, will discuss ongoing primary research in Africa. Billy Ray Reynolds, singer-song-

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FEBRUARY 4

Krewe of Pheonix Mardi Gras Parade "Pure Country"
Colorful and exciting parade through downtown Natchez, beginning at 4pm

FEBRUARY 5

Krewe of Pheonix Grand Ball **601-446-9644**

FEBRUARY 23 - 27

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
16th Annual Award Winning Conference
"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South"
601-446-1289 or Toll Free **800-296-6522**

FEBRUARY 28

River City Classic
10k, 5k & 1 Mile Fun Run
Sponsored by Natchez Community Hospital **601-445-6200**

MARCH 12 - APRIL 16

Natchez Spring Pilgrimage
31 Antebellum Mansions - Evening entertainment
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2005 part 1
page 47

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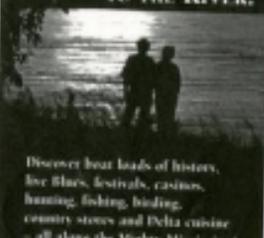
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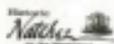
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Southern Living

FEBRUARY 2005 SC15

2005 part 1
page 49

FEBRUARY

2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <small>Call Flower Station for Valentine's Day for rest of this page</small>	2	3	4	5 <small>Kansas of Phoenix Grand Ball</small>
6	7	8	9 <small>Ash Wednesday</small>	10	11	12
13 <small>Valentine's Day</small>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <small>President's Day</small>	21	22	23 <small>Natchez Library & Cinema Celebration Feb. 23 - Feb. 27</small>	24	25	26 <small>River City Classic 3k Walk 1 mile Fun Run</small>
27	28	<small>Black History Month Field Trips at Historic Jefferson College - February 5-28; Admission is free Black History Month Annual activities celebrating African American Culture in America - Natchez Visitor Center Victorian Valentines and Scrapbooks original to Rosalie - February 5-24 Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration - February 23-27; 16th Annual award winning conference Community Hospital City Classic - February 26; Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.</small>				

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The Democrat

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2005 part 1
page 50

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on the Mississippi

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2005

file NLCC
2005
publicity



2005 part 1
page 51

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS WANTING CEUs at the 2005 NLCC

To: All teachers wanting CEUs for attending the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Re: Details concerning CEUs

Welcome! To be certain you receive your CEUs, be sure your name and address are registered with Millicent Mayo and that you have paid either \$75 for up to 35 hours (3.5 CEUs) or \$65 for fewer hours (thus, fewer CEUs). Please pay in advance. If you cannot, please find Millicent in the lobby of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus, before 8 a.m., Wed., Feb. 23, 2005, or at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street prior to the opening ceremony at 2 p.m., Wed., Feb. 23, 2005. She can be reached after that at her Natchez-Adams School District office on Homochitto St. Her phone number is 601-445-0217.

You must SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT at the NLCC to receive your hours, showing PHOTO IDENTIFICATION. You must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of each session (morning, afternoon, or evening) to sign in so that your hours can be easily tallied. You will not receive the hours if you arrive more than 15 minutes after a segment has begun. You must sign out when you leave, showing photo ID and giving time of departure.

To receive all 35 hours (3.5 CEUs) you must attend conference sessions beginning at 8 a.m., Wed., Feb. 23, at Copiah-Lincoln and ending at 1 p.m., Sun., Feb. 27. Most of the conference is at the Natchez Convention Center, but watch the schedule for place changes. To receive fewer hours and thus fewer CEUs, you simply sign in and out of sessions you attend. To sign in, look for a person with a sign-up sheet at the following times:

WED., FEB. 23

- 7:45-8:15 a.m., Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle
- 1:30-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main St.
- 7-7:30 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

THURS., FEB. 24

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center (Segment from 9-10:30 a.m. worth 1.5 hours or .15 CEU)
To receive CEUs you may choose to attend either the program at the Convention Center OR the panel program at Natchez High School, both scheduled 9-10:30 a.m.
- 10:45-11:30 a.m., Natchez Convention Center (You must sign in and out of the morning segments, no matter where you attend the 9 a.m. session.)
- 1:45-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 7:15-7:45 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

FRI., FEB. 25

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 1:30-2:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 7:30-8:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

SAT., FEB. 26

- 8:30-9:15 a.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 12:30-1:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 4 p.m., William Johnson House
- 5 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 5:45-6:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center
- 7:45-8:15 p.m., Natchez Convention Center

SUN., FEB. 27

- 8-8:45 a.m., Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11 Co-Lin Circle

2005 part 1
page 52



The William Johnson House, which was built in Natchez by a free black man prior to the Civil War, will be one of the locations for proceedings during the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration. This year the theme is Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South will be explored.

SYMPOSIUM
February 23—27
Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South, Natchez, Miss.

Who were Free Blacks in the South preceding the Civil War? Were they better off than slaves? Were they semi-slaves? Were they treated compassionately by white people? Or did they enjoy the full rights of whites?

These are the questions that will drive the wheels of scholarship during the sixteenth annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which has long been recognized as Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture.

The 2005 conference theme is Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South. Headquartered at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street, the symposium draws regionally and nationally renowned scholars, and engages them in scholarly debate against the evocative backdrop of Natchez' architectural and cultural heritage. The subject matter is particularly poignant in the context of many Natchez area landmarks, including the William Johnson House, which was built by a Free Black prior to the War Between the States, and will be officially opened to the public by the National Park

Service during the conference.

- Among speakers attending are:
- Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*; on Free Blacks in the South
- Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on Free Blacks from Natchez to New Orleans

• Ruth and Jim Coy on Robert D. Smith, a Natchez, whose home, Bonthe site of the celebration's benefit party February 26

• Lis, Texas Tech University ter, Seville, Spain, on Free the Colonial period

• ser, documentary filmmaker g, Md., on Ibrahima, an African who was a slave in Natchez

• New Orleans, author of *and Creole: The History and* *and's Free People of Color*, on ole cultural heritage

• own Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., *of Cases and Case River Creole* ster-slave sexual dynamics

• ling by free people of color

• dford Clark, Texas A&M on Robert Penn Warren's

• stol, Jr., University of South- si, on Black barbers and the ree Black society

• Andrews, University of ina, Chapel Hill, on Wil- and the African-American

• Curry of University of Louis- Blacks in the urban South

• feacham Gould, New Ormen in the William Johnson

• per, Washington, D.C., on and their role as misunder-

stood slave owners

• Primary Presenters: J. Fredrickson, D.C. County, Miss.; and Elizabeth Shown Mills, Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, will discuss genealogy today.

Most of the conference is free. For the luncheon, one reception, the concert, the gala benefit party, and pre- and post-conference seminars and workshops, and for further information, call (866) 296-6522 or (601) 446-1289 or visit www.colin.edu/nlcc.

2005 part 1
page 53



Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
P.O. Box 1307 • Natchez, MS 39121-1307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2005

Contact: Carolyn Vance Smith
601.446.1208

**Journal Writing Winners Entries on
MPB Rural Voices Radio**

(Natchez, Miss.)—Eight Natchez area students will have their winning journal entries broadcast statewide on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Radio during the next two weeks. Each student recorded an essay for Rural Voices Radio for winning the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's Journal Writing Contest.

"We have gleaned so much history about pre-Civil War Natchez in the journal entries of William Johnson. These students have added a modern-day post script to this living history with their own life and community recollections," said MPB Executive Director and NLCC co-chairman Marie Antoon. "We are proud to be able to share these students' writings with Mississippians statewide during our Rural Voices Radio broadcasts on MPB Radio."

For 16 years, 1835-1851, Natchez businessman William Johnson, a free black, reported the details of his life and Natchez society in his journal, eventually published as an 812-page book. Students from Cathedral High School, Natchez High School, Trinity Episcopal High School and Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Campus, participated in the journal writing contest. Each school had 10 winners.

"We were impressed with the writing abilities of each student," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "All of the journal entries provided a unique and valuable reflection on the city of Natchez. This contest is a unique component of the annual conference, set this year for Feb. 23-27."

Rural Voices Radio can be heard weekdays on MPB Radio during Morning Edition at 8:19 a.m. and at 12:48 p.m. during Day to Day. The broadcast schedule for the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's Journal Writing Contest Winners is:

February 14 – Jena Thomas
February 15 – Alex Allain
February 16 – Brittany Fells
February 17 – Cy Lambert
February 18 – Erica Davis

(more)

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Natchez free blacks conference to feature Johnson house

By Kathy Hanrahan
The Associated Press

Natchez, a virtual epicenter of free blacks in Mississippi before the Civil War, this week is hosting a five-day seminar exploring the topic.

Carolyn Vance Smith, celebration founder and co-chairman, said this year's "Between Two Worlds" theme was selected to coincide with the opening of the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez. The conference marks the 16th year the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration has hosted a convention of this caliber.

Johnson, considered by historians as Mississippi's best known free black during slavery times, owned a barber shop and bath house in Natchez during the early to mid- 1800s.

"We thought this conference would be a good springboard to our community and to anybody that wants to come to understand who he was and how he fit in with the other free blacks and how they fit in with slaves, whites and Indians," Smith said.

Johnson's life was explored through books like William Johnson's Natchez and The Barber of Natchez. His home, now owned by the National Park Service, will open to the public on Saturday after renovations.

"Here in this town we have this guy who's not supposed to be there, that is a black person who's free living in the belly of the beast, living in the heartland of the slave South, contradicting everything that society stands for," said Ira Berlin, the conference's keynote speaker.

Berlin, a professor at the University of Maryland, hopes the opening of Johnson's house will spark interest in the subject of free blacks.

"Many people, perhaps most people, don't know there were black people who

The details

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" begins Wednesday with speakers, movies and musical performances at the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez.

Lectures are at the Copiah-Lincoln Community College campus in Natchez.



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2005 part 1
page 55

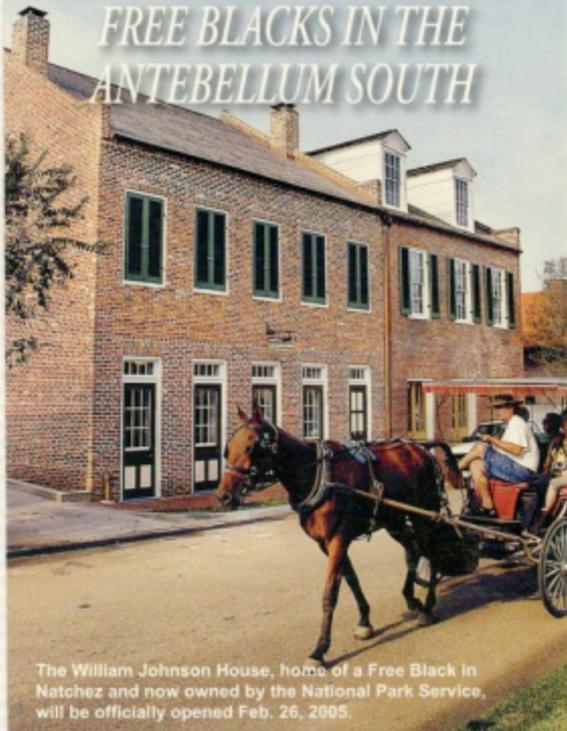
The 16th Annual
Natchez Literary and Cinema
Celebration

Natchez, Mississippi

FEBRUARY 23-27, 2005

PRESENTS

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
*FREE BLACKS IN THE
ANTEBELLUM SOUTH*



The William Johnson House, home of a Free Black in Natchez and now owned by the National Park Service, will be officially opened Feb. 26, 2005.

Headquarters
Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
Natchez, Mississippi

*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.
Locations change for certain events.*

2005 part 1
page 56

Friday, February 4, 2005

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2005 part 1
page 57

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Natchez The Democrat

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SUNDAY EDITION

Standards being set for jails

By **JULIE FINLEY**

The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — A representative from the Adams County Jail is working with jails across the state to create some standards in the way inmates are handled.

The Mississippi Jail Association met for the first time in October, spurred by an Oklawaha County jail administrator, and has grown to include about 20 percent of the state's jails, including Adams County Jail Administrator Maj. Charles Harrigill, who heads up the southern division.



Harrigill

"All 82 jails run 82 different ways," Harrigill said of Mississippi's counties. "There's no standard for operating a jail in the state of Mississippi. We are trying to get all the jails to be on the same page."

Many other states already have jail associations in place. The Mississippi group is modeling their association after Georgia's Harrigill said.

A little standardization could go a long way in saving counties money, he said. The MIA has identified several areas they'd like to work to improve.

Often times the paperwork from felony circuit clerk convictions takes far too long, costing the county reimbursement funds from the state, he said.

Inmates sentenced to serve time
See Jails, 7A

Democrat ad staff garners 22 awards

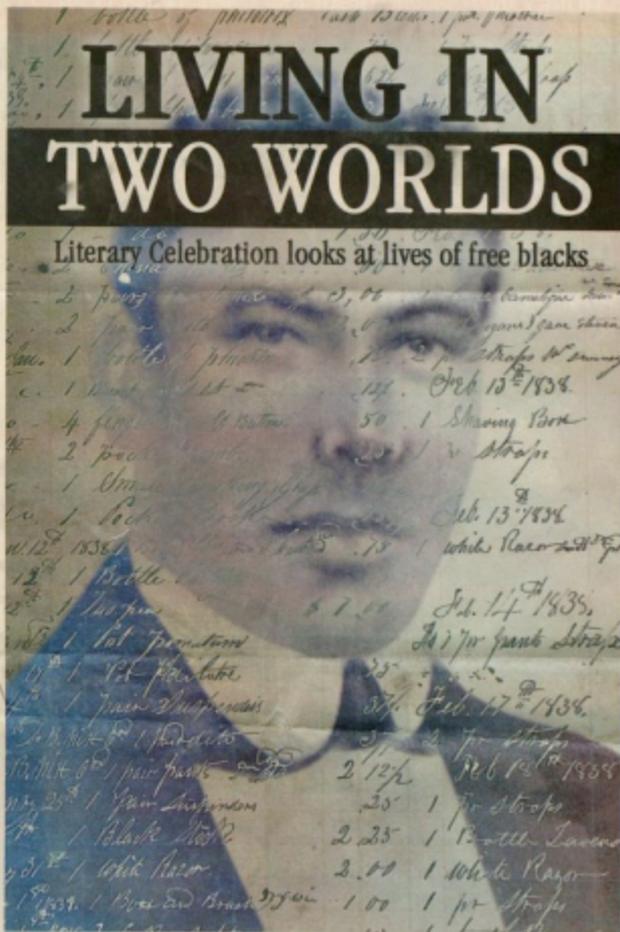
By **NTA MCCANN**
The Natchez Democrat
NATCHEZ

www.natchezdemocrat.com

2005 part 1
page 58

LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

Literary Celebration looks at lives of free blacks



William Johnson, a free black businessman in Natchez detailed his life in Natchez in his famous diary. Other details of his life can be found in the artifacts recovered from his house on State Street and soon to be on exhibit when the National Park Service officially opens the house to the public. Above is an example from one of his ledgers from 1838 superimposed on a portrait thought to be of the Natchez businessman.

In the pre-Civil War South, black people who were not slaves but didn't carry papers stating they were free could be jailed or sold into slavery — and were often jailed as vagrants anyway.

They could not sell groceries or liquor or operate an entertainment or printing business, Jackson State professor Dr. Detrossal Davis



Inside

• More on the William Johnson House grand



Opinion

The Democrat

Monday, February 7, 2005

Teachers can earn credits at NLCC

Teachers, here is some great news for you. You are eligible to earn up to 3.5 continuing education units (CEUs) in five days during February at a very low-cost, very prestigious event.

This special offer is made by the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. The conference, which will use the theme of "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South," will take place Feb. 23-27.

Among more than three dozen program participants at this year's Celebration are:

- ▶ Pulitzer Prize-winning writer William Raspberry of The Washington Post.
- ▶ The American Library Association Newbery Award-winning Mildred D. Taylor, author of "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry."
- ▶ Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Edward P. Jones, author of The Known World.
- ▶ The Mississippi actor famous onscreen as "Major Dad," Gerald McRaney.
- ▶ Natchez native and best-selling novelist Ellen Douglas (pen name of Josephine Haxton).
- ▶ Scholar Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, whose interest is in Spanish Natchez history.
- ▶ Academy Award-winning writer Callie Khouri, author of the screenplays "Thelma & Louise" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," among others.
- ▶ The historians Ira Berlin (Slaves Without Masters); Elizabeth Shown Mills (Isle of Canes); William Bedford Clark (Robert Penn Warren scholar); Douglas Bristol Jr. (Black Barbers and the African American Tradition of Enterprise); William L. Andrews (The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760-1865); Leonard P. Curry (The Free Black in Urban America); Virginia Meacham Gould (To Be Free, Black & Female in the Old South); Larry Koger (Free Black Slave Masters); Alan Huffman (Mississippi in Africa); Ronald L. F. Davis (The Black Experience in Natchez).



Top of the Morning
Millicent Mayo

▶ William F. Winter, former Mississippi governor who has served as master of ceremonies for the Celebration since its beginning; David G. Sausing, chairman of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award committee; Howell Garner, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College; and other well-known conference supporters.

Other program components include:

- ▶ The grand opening of the William Johnson House at 9 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, by the National Park Service
 - ▶ A Pilgrimage Garden Club flower show called "Exploring William Johnson's World," 2:30-5 p.m., Feb. 26, in six historic mansions in the William Johnson House neighborhood
 - ▶ The showing of several films, including "History Detective Series," "Band of Angels" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood."
 - ▶ A Creole jazz concert at 8 p.m., Feb. 25 by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Screamers of New Orleans, a group that regularly tours Europe and closes out the New Orleans Jazz Festival.
 - ▶ And so much more.
- This award-winning, mostly free conference will begin at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Natchez Convention Center and continue through 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 23. It is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.
- A CEU registration fee of \$75 cov-

ers cost of CEU verification as well as cost of certain ticketed NLCC events. To get all 3.5 CEUs (35 hours), a person must attend the following:

- ▶ All free events, from 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 23, until 10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26
- ▶ Certain ticketed events, paid for by the \$75 fee. These are sessions on the mornings of Feb. 23 and Feb. 27 and a concert Feb. 25.

▶ Attendance is not required for a luncheon Feb. 24; a reception Feb. 24; or a gala benefit party Feb. 26.

Teachers who cannot attend all the required events and thus cannot get all 3.5 CEUs may obtain fewer CEUs by paying \$65. They will receive one-tenth of a CEU for each hour of attendance, up to 34 hours or 3.4 CEUs.

Those paying \$65 are eligible to attend any and all of the free sessions as well as the ticketed sessions Feb. 23, Feb. 27, and the concert Feb. 25.

In order to obtain CEUs, a teacher should send name, address, phone number and check (made out to Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration for either \$75 or \$65) to me, Millicent Mayo, Natchez-Adams School System, P.O. Box 1188, Natchez, MS 39121. For more information, please call me at 442-0217.

At the conference, teachers must sign in and sign out. The record of attendance will determine the number of CEUs to be granted.

I am pleased to serve once again as the Celebration's CEU committee chairwoman. What a wonderful opportunity for area teachers! It goes without saying that the Celebration has to meet high standards to be able to offer CEUs again this year.

So, get out your checkbook today and sign up for what official evaluators call Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture.

It's the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. See you there.

Millicent Mayo of the Natchez-Adams School District serves as the NLCC's CEU chairwoman.

2005 part 1
page 54

In Johnson's neighborhood

PGC flower show will follow details from barber's diary

From staff reports

NATCHEZ — A flower show to carry out the theme "Exploring William Johnson's World" will be held Feb. 26 in conjunction with the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Mrs. Tracy W. Roberts, chairman of the Pilgrimage Garden Club-sponsored show, said six historic houses will be settings for the floral designs, horticulture specimens and educational exhibits.

The houses are The Coyle House, The Governor Holmes House, Greenlea, The Griffith-McComas House, Holly Hedges and Texada.

"The flower show theme fits well with the Celebration theme," Roberts said. "With the Celebration focus on free blacks in the pre-Civil War South, it's fitting for us to choose the most prominent of Natchez's free black men, William Johnson."

The Celebration is Feb. 23-27, including lectures, entertainment and other events at the Natchez Convention Center and at other venues.



The Natchez National Historical Park

Mrs. Tracy W. Roberts, chairman, and Mrs. J. Shelton Hand Jr., co-chairman have organized a flower show for the Pilgrimage Garden Club on Feb. 26.

The theme of the Celebration is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

The flower show adds another unique event, said Mrs. J. Shelton Hand Jr., flower show co-chairman.

The houses chosen for the flower and garden exhibits are in the neighborhood of the William Johnson House, which has its formal opening on the same day as the flower show, Hand said.

Themes for the designs are taken from the famous diary left by William Johnson, a barber

location for floral designs by adults featuring dried plant material. Themes will include hunting, fishing and farming.

The Governor Holmes House, 207 S. Wall St., home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Cates, will be the location for educational exhibits and a garden tour.

Greenlea, 211 S. Wall, home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Carby, will be the location for horticulture specimens and a garden tour.

The Griffith-McComas House, 301 S. Wall St., home of Mrs. Charles Petkovsek Jr., will feature horticulture specimens entered by youth participants.

Holly Hedges, 214 Washington St., home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stephens, will feature designs made of the designers' choices of materials — fresh, dried or treated dried. Themes will include entertaining pastimes, such as reading, horse racing and circus performances; music and the arts; and appreciation of culinary arts.

Texada, 222 S. Wall St., home of Mrs. George W. Moss, will be the site of designs by youth entrants on themes involving pets, firemen and steamboats.

2005 part 1
page 60

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39120

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Winning prestigious awards at the 14th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Natchez, Miss., are three Southerners, all of whom have won national acclaim for their writings. They will be present to receive the awards and autograph copies of their books after the ceremony.

The annual awards will be presented in ceremonies at 4 p.m., Sat., Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center. The event is free and open to

the public. It is the culmination of the conference, Feb. 23-27, 2005, which uses the theme, "Between the Worlds: The Black in the Antebellum South."



Raspberry

Executive Award is William Raspberry, born in Clarks, Miss.,

and now of Washington, D.C. A longtime syndicated columnist for The Washington Post, he has won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Writing one of two 2005 Richard Wright Literary

NLCC to present awards to William Raspberry, Mildred D. Taylor, Callie Khouri

and now of Washington, D.C. A longtime syndicated columnist for The Washington Post, he has won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Raspberry is the Knight Professor of the Practice of Communications and Journalism at the DeWitt Wallace Center and the Terry

Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, Durham, N.C. He is also author of *Looking Backward in Ok.*

Also winning a 2005 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award is Mildred D. Taylor, a native of Jackson, Miss., now of Boulder, Colo. She has won The New York Times Outstanding

Book of the Year Award for Song of the Trees (1970); the American Library Association's *Stevenson Award for Best of Children, How My City* (1976); *All the Best Books for Young Adults Award for Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (1991); and the *Carena Scott King Award for The Friendship* (1992). The

Road to Memphis (1986) and *The Land* (2004).

Winner of the 2005 Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Callie Khouri, a native of Texas who lived in Kentucky before moving to Los Angeles. She is author of the screenplay

See NLCC Page 9

2005 part 1
page 61

NLCC

Continued from Page 1

Thelma & Louise, which won an Oscar from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Writers Guild of America award for "Best Original Screenplay" and the Golden Globe and PEN Literary awards. She also wrote *Something to Talk*



Taylor

66
2005 part 1
page 62

About for Warner Brothers Pictures in 1995, starring Dennis Quaid, Julia Roberts, Gena Rowlands, Robert Duvall and Kyrn Sedgwick. She also wrote *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, which starred Sandra Bullock, Ashley Judd, Ellen Burstyn, Maggie Smith and James Garner.

Following the awards ceremony and autograph session will be a gala benefit reception and supper at the historic house Bonnetra, overlooking the Mississippi River. The event honors the award winners and NLCC speakers.

Tickets are limited to this event. They cost \$125, with \$100 of that tax-deductible. They may be bought by calling 601-446-1289 or toll-free 866-296-NLCC or by emailing Christy.Williams@colin.edu.

The Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award was established in 1994 to honor the internationally known author, Richard Wright. This man was born

near Natchez in 1908, the son of a country schoolteacher and an illiterate sharecropper. Wright's first novel, *Native Son*, was published in 1940 and was an immediate success. His *Black Boy*, a fictionalized autobiography, was published in 1945 and sold 400,000 copies in three months. After leaving Natchez, Wright worked in Chicago and later moved to Paris, where he died in 1960.

Winners of the award are honored each year for a body of literary work. They must be outstanding, living writers with a strong Mississippi connection. The award has been funded each year by Natchez Newspapers Inc., publisher of *The Natchez Democrat* and *The Miss-Lou Guide*.

Winners of the award are Eudora Welty, 1994; Margaret Walker Alexander, 1995; Ellen Douglas and Willie Morris, 1996; Shelby Foote and Elizabeth Spencer, 1997; Richard Ford and Will Campbell, 1998; Barry Hannah and Sterling Plumpp, 1999; Beth Henley and David Sansing, 2000; John Grisham and Bill Minor, 2001; Lewis Nordan and John Marszalek, 2002; T.R. Hummer and Clifton Taulbert, 2003; Greg Iles and William Scarborough, 2004.

In February 2002, a new NLCC award, the Special Achievement Award for Screenwriting, was established. The first award went to Horton Foote, Wharton, Texas, an Oscar-winning and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of screenplays, plays and a non-fiction memoir.

Following the announcement of Foote as the first winner of the award, it was immediately announced that henceforth the award would be named in his honor, the Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting. Winners must be Southerners who have excelled in writing screenplays.

The Horton Foote Award for screenwriting is the brainchild of Gerald McRaney, an



Khouri

award-winning film and television actor of Mississippi and Sherman Oaks, Calif. Since the Natchez Literary Celebration in 2001 changed its name at McRaney's suggestion to Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to reflect its increased focus on film, McRaney suggested a writing award for that medium.

The Horton Foote Award is underwritten by The Mississippi Film Office, Division of Tourism, Mississippi Development Authority.

Horton Foote Award winners are Billy Bob Thornton, 2003, author of the film *Sling Blade*, *One False Move* and *A Family Thing*; Gail Gilchrist, 2004, author of the screenplay adaptation of Willie Morris' novel, *My Dog Skip*, and the teleplay adaptation of Eudora Welty's novella, *The Ponder Heart*.

The Celebration is sponsored by Copiab-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The event's entire agenda can be seen at www.colin.edu/nlcc.

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Between Two Worlds

Annual celebration to explore South's history

Special to The DAILY LEADER

Who were Free Blacks in the South preceding the Civil War? Were they better off than slaves? Were they semi-slaves? Were they treated compassionately by white people? Or did they enjoy the full rights of whites?

"The truth will be told about this unusual group of people in American history at the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance South of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the celebration in 1990 and have guided it into what is called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

The celebration has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

"The 2005 conference theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." It is set for Feb. 23-27, with headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center on Main Street in downtown Natchez.

"We think the 2005 conference will be our strongest yet," Smith said. "We began with a riveting subject and asked Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, nationally-known scholars and beautiful Natchez as a living museum that relates directly to the subject of the conference."

Natchez as a living museum is exemplified in the William Johnson House, built by a Free Black in Natchez. The house will be officially opened to the public by the National Park Service during the conference.

Free dedication ceremonies, set for 9 a.m., Feb. 26, will attract national, state and local governmental and tourism leaders as well as conference-goers, the general public and media representatives.

Among the speakers at the conference are the following:

- In Berlin, University of Maryland, author of *Slaves without Masters: The Free Blacks in the Antebellum South*, on Free Blacks in the South;
- Lester Sullivan, Xavier University of Louisiana, on Free Blacks from Natchez to New Orleans;
- Ruth and Jim Coy on Robert D. Smith, a former slave who wrote "Natchez, Mississippi: A History of the City and County."

Smith was awarded the 2003 National Book Award for his book "Natchez, Mississippi: A History of the City and County."

NATCHEZ

• Elizabeth Shown Mills, Tuscaloosa, Ala., author of *Isle of Canes* and *Cone River Creole Series*, on master-slave sexual dynamics and slaveholding by free people of color;

• William Bradford Clark, Texas A & M University, on Robert Penn Warren's *Band of Angels*;

• Douglas Bristol, Jr., University of Southern Mississippi, on Black barbers and the structure of Free Black society;

• William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on William Johnson and the African-American narrative;

• Leonard P. Curry of University of Louisville, on Free Blacks in the urban South;

• Virginia Muecham Gould, New Orleans, on women in the William Johnson family;

• Larry Koger, Washington, D.C., on Black masters and their roles as misanthropic slave owners; and

• Edward F. Jones, Washington, D.C., Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel, "The Known World."

The conference's festive annual award ceremony will be at 6 p.m., Feb. 26, honoring the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award are William Raspberry, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Washington Post*, and Mildred D. Taylor, author of *Rail of Thunder*, *Hear My Cry*, which won the American Library Association's Newbery Award.

Winning the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing is Callie Khouri, writer of the films "Thelma & Louise" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood."

Enhancing the lecture series and award events are films, including "Band of Angels," "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," and a segment about Boston from the History Detective Series, a concert of Creole Jazz by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Semesters of New Orleans, tours of the William Johnson House, a standard flower show in six historic homes sponsored by the Pilgrimage Garden Club, called "Exploring William Johnson's World," walking tours called "William Johnson's Natchez," a luncheon with music of the 1850s by Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez, three live depictions; exhibits; and discussion sessions.

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Photo By BEN HILLIYER/Natchez Democrat
The William Johnson House, home of a Free Black in Natchez and now owned by the National Park Service, will be officially opened Feb. 26.

whose diaries inspired William Johnson's Natchez: The Anti-Bellum Diary of a Free Negro and *The Barber of Natchez*.

Concluding the conference are the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops, Frances Doss of the Alcorn State University Writing Project will write with students in Mississippi in Africa, "Mississippi in Africa,"

Most of the conference is free. To get tickets for the luncheon, one reception, the concert, the gala benefit party, and pre- and post-conference seminars and workshops, and to get information, call toll-free 1-866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289. Or email Christy.Williams@coia.edu or visit www.natchez2005.com.

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