

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Museums Draw Visitors from Worldwide

More than one quarter of a million visitors have made their way to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum since they opened their doors on December 9, 2017. In addition to Mississippians from all 82 counties, people from as far away as Australia, Brazil, China, France, Japan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom have visited the site.

“The success of the museums is a testament to the vision and hard work of everyone involved, from our elected officials to the designers to the staff,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “The stories of Mississippi resonate across the world, and we look forward to continuing to tell those stories to more people in the new year.”



Initial projections for visitation to the museums was 180,000 in the first year of operation.

The museums won the top spot in *Mississippi Magazine's*

“Best of Mississippi” competition, while the Mississippi Tourism Association named them attraction of the year for the entire state.

At the 2018 Southeastern

Museums Conference (SEMC) annual meeting, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum won the top award for the This Little Light of Mine gallery. The Museum of Mississippi History took the gold in the Excellence in Exhibition category, with the MCRM taking silver. The MCRM also won the SEMC's silver award for the Freedom Summer Theater, while the MMH won bronze for the Reflections theaters. Stories Unfolded, the inaugural special exhibit at the Two Mississippi Museums, won the SEMC's top prize in its category.

MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen was awarded the Rabbi Perry E. Nussbaum Civil Justice Award for her role as project director for the construction of the

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Historic Preservation Division Director Hired

Brings Background in Architecture, Facilities Management to MDAH

A former college and university planning and facilities manager is the new director of the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Marlin King succeeds Jim Woodruff, who became the new MDAH deputy state historic preservation officer.

King earned a bachelor's in drafting and design technology from Jackson State University and a master's degree in archi-

itecture from Morgan State University in Baltimore. He was employed as the assistant director of planning and construction at Jackson State University from 2004 to 2014, where he led building renovation projects, directed the implementation of a ten-year master plan, and managed \$180 million in capital work in historic preservation.



MDAH Historic Preservation Division director Marlin King.

“With many years of hands-on experience maintaining buildings, many of them historic, on college campuses, Marlin will be a great asset to MDAH,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “We look forward to the fresh perspective he will bring to our

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museums and their contribution the civil rights movement in Mississippi and beyond. Governor Phil Bryant presented Allen the 2018 Excellence in State Government Award, established at the direction of the state legislature to encourage the development of innovative systems of public administration.

“More than any other person, these buildings are a credit to the vision, commitment, and the persistence of Lucy Allen,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “Allen always envisioned these museums as world-class institutions, and she never shrank from that vision, not when support was absent, not when money was tight, not when time was slipping away. No staff person has done more for these museums, over more years, than Lucy Allen.”

Cindy Gardner, administrator of the

Two Mississippi Museums, was chosen for the SEMC’s museum leadership award in recognition of her role in advancing the profession.

Other awards include:

- Mississippi Heritage Trust Heritage Award for Excellence in Preservation Education to the Two Mississippi Museums
- American Alliance of Museums gold MUSE award to



Governor Phil Bryant, right, presents Lucy Allen with the Excellence in State Government award.

Chaney Goodman Schwerner Theater and honorable mention for the Freedom Summer immersive theater

- American Association for State and Local History’s Leadership in History award of merit for the MCRM
- Mississippi Society of Civil Engineers award of excellence for the MCRM
- Attraction of the Year by Visit

the MCRM for the Jackson to the MCRM

Guyton, Hardy Hall of Fame Portraits Unveiling

The portraits of two pioneering physicians will be unveiled at a ceremony at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, at the Old Capitol Museum. Dr. Arthur C. Guyton and Dr. James D. Hardy were elected to the Mississippi Hall of Fame in 2011 and 2016, respectively.

“These men were titans of medicine who affected the lives of patients far beyond our state’s boundaries,” said Old Capitol Museum director Lauren Miller. “We are proud to add their portraits to the Hall of Fame.”

Arthur Guyton intended to pursue a surgical career, but when he was diagnosed with polio he turned instead

to medical research. In 1956 Guyton earned a presidential citation for his invention of the motorized wheelchair with joystick, among other innovations. That same year Guyton published his Textbook of Medical Physiology, a groundbreaking work on cardiovascular physiology that influenced the way physicians treat hypertension, congestive heart failure, and edema today.

In 1955 James D. Hardy became the founding chair of surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. In 1963 he led the team that performed the world’s first lung transplant. The following year Hardy

and his team transplanted the heart of a chimpanzee into a dying man, predating the first human-to-human heart transplant by three years. Over the course of his career he authored 24 books and 466 papers, while also producing more than 200 medical films.

Remarks will be made by UMMC School of Medicine dean Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Department of Physiology chair Dr. John E. Hall, and Department of Surgery chair Dr. Christopher D. Anderson. Members of the Guyton and Hardy families will unveil the portraits, both of which were painted by Steve Moffert. A reception will follow in the

Chancery Court room.

The Hall of Fame contains 136 distinguished Mississippians, including Gulf Coast artist Walter Anderson, author Eudora Welty, civil rights hero Medgar Evers, Choctaw chief Pushmataha, and federal judge Burnita Shelton Matthews.

Any Mississippian—native or adopted—deceased at least five years may be nominated for the Hall of Fame. Elections are held once every five years and only five people may be inducted into the Hall each cycle. Portraits of members of the Hall of Fame hang in the historic Senate Chamber and throughout the Old Capitol Building.

Historian, Editor Allen Dennis Dies at 75

Retired professor Allen Dennis died on November 5, 2018, in Jackson, Mississippi. He was 75.

After spending thirty years in the history department at Delta State University, Dennis

became chair of the history department at Troy University in 1998, where he taught for another decade.

A dedicated member of the Mississippi Historical Society, Dennis served on its board of

directors and was elected president for the 1997-98 term. He was at various times the news and notes



editor, book review editor, bibliographical editor, and assistant editor of the *Journal of Mississippi History*. Dennis produced a two-volume index of the publication’s first forty years.

Archaeologist Closing Half-Century Career with MDAH

John M. Connaway, a leading voice in Mississippi archaeology for half a century, will retire as director of the Department of Archives and History's Clarksdale field office at the end of 2018.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology from the University of Mississippi, Connaway began working at the department in 1968. Since that time he has made extraordinary contributions to the preservation and study of the archaeology of the northern Yazoo Basin of northwestern Mississippi. Connaway has worked tirelessly to salvage data from archaeological sites across the Mississippi Delta threatened by land leveling and other development.

His enthusiasm for the archaeology of Mississippi has inspired a dedicated group of volunteers, both lay and professional,

who have helped Connaway document and preserve the Austin and Oliver sites and Carson Mounds, among others. Groups such as the Archaeological Conservancy, Mississippi Archaeological Association, the Museum of the Mississippi Delta, and the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis have relied on Connaway's expertise over the years.

"John Connaway's carefully curated artifact assemblages and meticulous field notes have provided material for multiple generations of graduate student theses,"

said MDAH chief archaeologist John Underwood. "It will be impossible for one person to fill the void he'll leave behind."

Connaway is the author of numerous scholarly articles and monographs, including the definitive 2007 book *Fishweirs: A World Perspective with Emphasis on the Fishweirs of Mississippi* and the first of three volumes on the Oliver Site in 2016. In 2017 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.



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Most recently, King has worked as the associate vice-president for facilities management at Alcorn State University from 2014 to 2016, the director of preconstruction, design, and sustainability at THOR Construction in Minneapolis, and as the facilities manager at Tougaloo College.

Barry White has been hired as the deputy director of the

MDAH Historic Preservation division. White, who received his master's degree in applied anthropology from Mississippi State University, began his career at MDAH in 2013.

He became the administrator of



Deputy director Barry White.

the Certified Local Government preservation program in 2014. Most recently, White worked as a liaison between MDAH and the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Housed in the Charlotte

Capers Building in Jackson, the MDAH Historic Preservation division administers the duties of the State Historic Preservation Office and works closely with individuals, state and local governments, and federal agencies to protect and preserve Mississippi's historic structures, archaeological sites, and other places associated with our shared past.

Photographer James Patterson Dies at 59



Jackson-based photographer James Patterson died on October 21, 2018. He was 59.

Patterson spent his career documenting the artistic and cultural life of Mississippi. In 1992 he collaborated on a Eudora Welty portfolio produced by the Department of Archives and History and Diogenese Editions,

becoming one of only two people ever allowed to print Welty's photographs. Patterson's photograph of the Two Mississippi Museums was used for the cover of the department's *Telling Our Stories* book in 2017. Patterson was chosen to receive a 2019 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Professor and Author John D.W. Guice Dies

Distinguished scholar and author John D.W. Guice died on July 30, 2018. He was 87.

Guice spent his academic career at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he specialized in the history of the Old Southwest and early Mississippi frontier.

In 1993 Guice was elected president of the Mississippi Historical Society, and in

2011 he received its Dunbar Rowland Award for his lifelong contributions to the preservation, study, and interpretation of Mississippi history.

Guice also received the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award and the Thad Cochran Humanities Award from the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.



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Christmas by Candlelight Tour on Dec. 7

On Friday, December 7, enjoy free live music, holiday decorations, and traditional treats at the twenty-third annual Christmas by Candlelight Tour. Seven sites will be open and sporting holiday decorations—the State Capitol, Mississippi Governor’s Mansion, Old Capitol Museum, Manship House, and Eudora Welty House and Garden, plus the Two Mississippi Museums—the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

For the first time, the Two Mississippi Museums will host the popular small town exhibit of Possum Ridge and its model trains. The Mississippi Museum Store will be open and have a wide selection



of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa items for sale.

In addition to special music and unique decorations at

each site, Governor Phil Bryant and First Lady Deborah Bryant will welcome visitors to the antebellum Missis-

sippi Governor’s Mansion. The State Capitol will offer photographs with Santa Claus. The Old Capitol will feature a fourteen-foot-tall Christmas tree. At the Manship House Museum, the Hinds Community College School of Culinary Arts will provide treats from nineteenth-century recipes. The Welty House will feature holiday photographs and greeting cards from Welty’s closest friends.

Park at any museum and ride the shuttle buses between sites or drive your vehicle at your own pace. The event begins at 4:30 p.m. and lasts until 8:30 p.m.

For more information, call 601-948-8678 or email info@mdah.ms.gov.