

Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters

Now in its 39th year!

2017 Awards Banquet

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The 38th MIAL annual Awards Banquet was held at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, on Saturday, June 3, 2017. In addition to the Awards Banquet, MIAL offered a tour of the Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden on the campus, a Delta Meat Market food truck picnic, readings and signings by MIAL Award winners, and a pre-banquet reception honoring nominees and winners at the GRAMMY® Museum Mississippi. President William N. LaForge served as banquet host and entertainment was provided by Tricia Walker, Director of the Delta Music Institute.

The Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award this year is shared by Jere Allen and Samuel Jones. Jere Allen, a resident of Oxford, is Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of Mississippi. This internationally known figurative artist states, "My paintings employ a reactive method in the search for an elusive notion that has perplexed me for many years. The images, symbols, and compositions that stem from personal, social, political realities are often a foil to assist in the realization of feelings generated by that elusive notion."



Master of Ceremonies Delta State University President William LaForge and MIAL Banquet Chair & Incoming MIAL President Nancy LaForge.

Samuel Jones, a native of Inverness, Mississippi, and a graduate of Millsaps College, holds both the M.A. and Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music. Enjoying a long and distinguished career as a composer, conductor, and educator, Jones is a past president of the Conductors' Guild and the founding dean of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. He also served as Composer in Residence of the Seattle Symphony for fourteen years.

A Citation of Merit was presented to Thacker Mountain Radio, a live radio show based in Oxford and celebrating twenty years on the air this year. Kate Teague is

the director/producer, the host is Jim Dees, and the house band is The Yalobushwhackers. Thacker Mountain is based at Off Square Books and broadcast by Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

The Institute awarded a Special Achievement Award to painter and lifelong arts advocate Nan Sanders. Instrumental in the founding and continued growth of the Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden on the campus of Delta State University, Sanders served on the MIAL Board of Governors for many years and has also chaired the Mississippi Arts Commission. She is a founding member of the Delta Arts Alliance and a board member of the Mississippi Museum of Art.



Pictured, L to R, Front Row: Nan Sanders, Samuel Jones, Kate Teague. L to R, Back Row: Jere Allen, Kathryn York and Jim Dees

2017 Award Winners Honored (continued)

Rick Bass was this year's winner of the MIAL Fiction Award for *For a Little While: New and Selected Stories*. Winner of the Nonfiction Award was Jason Morgan Ward of Starkville for *Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century*. The Poetry Award was awarded to Catherine Pierce, also of Starkville, for her work *The Tornado Is the World*. James Sclater, Clinton, was the winner of the Music Composition

(Classical) Award for *Carmine Natura Creaturae*. The winners in the Music Composition (Contemporary) were Fish Michie and Kristian Dambrino for *Bluer Than This*, a jazz/blues album. Carlyle Wolfe of Oxford was the winner in the Visual Arts category for *Fall*. Winning the Photography Award for David Wharton, also of Oxford, is his book, *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South*.



Front Row, L to R: Fish Michie, Kathryn York, Nan Sanders, Samuel Jones, Kate Teague, and Kristian Dambrino.
Back Row, L to R: Jere Allen, Jim Dees, David Wharton, Carlyle Wolfe, Jason Morgan Ward, Catherine Pierce, and James Sclater. Not pictured: Rick Bass



MIAL President JoAnne Morris presents Visual Artist Carlyle Wolfe a "Delta Bluffs Plate" designed by McCarty Pottery for this year's winners. Along with the Mississippi-made gifts, category winners receive a check for \$1,000, made possible by the generous contributions from Patrons and Award Sponsors (listed on page 5).



Tricia Walker, director of the Delta Music Institute, Delta State University, entertained guests on the third of June, another sleepy dusty Delta day.



Nan Sanders and the Sculpture Garden Committee gave MIAL guests guided tours of the beautiful Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden on the Delta State University campus.

 A poster for the Mississippi Institute of Arts & Letters 38th Annual Awards. The title is at the top in a large serif font. Below it, the text reads "Celebrating Our 2017 Winners". The poster features several categories of winners with their names and titles:

- Fiction:** Rick Bass for *A Little White Horse and Selected Stories*
- Nonfiction:** Jason Morgan Ward for *Hanging Bridges: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century*
- Music Composition (Contemporary):** Kristian Dambrino/Fish Michie for *Blow Your Own*
- Music Composition (Classical):** James Szlizer for *Caroline Natura Creatura*
- Photography:** David Wharton for *The Power of Being: Spiritual Landscapes from the Rural South*
- Visual Arts:** Carlyle Wolfe for *Full*
- Poetry:** Catherine Pierce for *The Landmarks of the World*
- Special Achievement:** Nan Sanders
- Citation of Merit:** Thacker Mountain Radio
- Special Achievement:** Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award

 The poster also includes the date and location: "Saturday, June 3, Kent Wyatt Hall, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi". At the bottom, it provides contact information for the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.


Visiting at the GRAMMY® Mississippi Museum Reception prior to the awards banquet
 Pictured L to R: Stacy Deas, Jackson; Fish Michie, co-winner of the Music Composition Award (Contemporary), Franklin, TN; Lawrence Deas, MIAL category chairman and Incoming Vice President, Jackson; and Kristian Dambrino, co-winner of the Music Composition Award (Contemporary), Nashville, TN.



Rori Herbison, member of the Sculpture Garden Committee, giving a tour to: Robin and Debbie Dambrino, Grenada; Ellen and Eason Leake, Jackson; and Dr. David Potter and Dr. Kersti Yllö, Providence, RI. Dr. Potter's deceased wife, Pam Mathews, was the first to propose the Sculpture Garden on the DSU campus. Mathews also served on the MIAL Board of Governors until her untimely death in 2004.



Catherine Pierce, Mississippi State University professor and winner of the Poetry Award, reads from her book of poetry, *The Tornado Is the World*, at the afternoon reading and book signing at Jobe Auditorium.

Please visit the MIAL website at www.ms-arts-letters.org for additional photos from the event.

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For her years of service as MIAL Treasurer

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In memory of

Judy Sclater

Please consider the MIAL Endowment Fund in your estate planning, as well as with your memorial gifts. Notes of acknowledgement for your gift will be sent to the family. Contributions to MIAL are recognized by the IRS as tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donations may be made on-line from our MIAL website www.ms-arts-letters.org/membership or by mailing to:

MIAL Endowment Fund
Jan Taylor
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MIAL and Social Media

MIAL wants to be part of your "social" life! We have a presence on Twitter (@MSArtsLetters) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MSArtsLetters). We love to share news of the wide variety of literary, artistic, and musical events around the state. Tag us with your news, and we will share on Facebook and Twitter! Also, "Like" and follow our accounts to keep up with all of the latest MIAL and Mississippi arts news!

Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award Nomination

MIAL members are encouraged to make nominations to honor the artistic achievements of living Mississippians (current residents or former ones with continuing, significant ties to the state). Judges will consider only work shown, published, or performed in **2017**. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category. Nominations should include place and date of birth. Please make additional copies of this form if needed.

Only MIAL members may nominate.

Award Categories:

VISUAL ARTS (painting, sculpture, drawing, print, graphic arts, etc.) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual pieces, first publicly shown or published in 2017. Submit CD, slides, prints, or published work.

PHOTOGRAPHY (color, black and white, combination) Eligible are thematic bodies of work, or up to 15 individual photographs, first publicly shown or published in 2017. Submit CD, slides, prints, or published work.

FICTION (novel, short story collection, etc.) Eligible is work first published in 2017. Submit author’s name, publisher, title of publication, and date of publication.

NONFICTION (any literature that is not fictional) Eligible is work first published in 2017. Submit author’s name, publisher, title of publication, and date of publication.

POETRY Eligible are up to 15 poems published individually for the first time in 2017, or a collection of at least 15 poems published in book form for the first time in 2017 (poems in the collection may have been first published earlier than 2017). Submit complete tear sheets or publication.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CLASSICAL (song, opera, composition, instrumental music, etc.) This award is for works first published or performed publicly in 2017. Submit evidence of initial performance or publication (MP3 preferred. Or book, CD, tape, score) in 2017.

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CONTEMPORARY (blues, country music, jazz, rock, etc.) Submit published scores or the commercial recording first released in 2017. (Songs in a collection may have been 1st published earlier than 2017.)

Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked on or before **January 15, 2018**. Attach the artist’s representative work (slides, photographs, CD’s, etc.). Please mail the nomination to the appropriate address according to the awards category entered or e-mail to **ms.arts.letters@gmail.com**.

POETRY
Bridget Pieschel
1413 College Street
Columbus, MS 39701
bpieschel@gmail.com

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CONTEMPORARY
Pete Halverson
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Jackson, MS 39206
phalverson@mississippi.edu

VISUAL ARTS
George Bassi
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Laurel, MS 39441
gbassi@LRMA.org

NONFICTION
Ted Atkinson
P. O. Box 5272
Mississippi State, MS 39762
tba34@msstate.edu

PHOTOGRAPHY
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kimrushing@bellsouth.net

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CLASSICAL
Donzell Lee
1000 ASU Drive #175
Alcorn State, MS 39096
dlee@alcorn.edu

FICTION
Marion Barnwell
850 Fairview Street
Jackson, MS 39202
mgbarnwell@bellsouth.net

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME OF **MIAL MEMBER** MAKING NOMINATION: _____

NOMINATOR’S ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____ E-MAIL _____

AWARD CATEGORY: _____ MEDIUM: _____

TITLE OF WORK: _____

FIRST SHOWN/PUBLISHED/PERFORMED: _____

NAME OF **NOMINEE**: _____ NOMINEE’S ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____ E-MAIL _____

NOMINEE’S DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

NOMINEE’S EDUCATION (SCHOOLS AND DATES GRADUATED): _____



—Photo by Julian Rankin, Marketing Director, Mississippi Museum of Art

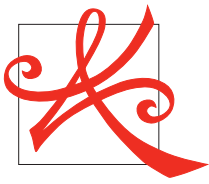
Pictured are members of the 2017-2018 MIAL Board of Governors: (front row, left to right): Lawrence Deas, Jackson; Bridget Pieschel, Columbus; Mary Thompson, Clarksdale; Marion Barnwell, Jackson; Peter Halverson, Jackson; (second row, left to right): Margaret Anne Robbins, Pontotoc; Ann Abadie, Oxford; Nancy Guice, Laurel; Robin Dietrick, Clinton; Jennifer Polk Heidelberg, Jackson; Nancy LaForge, Cleveland; and Donzell Lee, Alcorn; (back row, left to right): Kim Rushing, Cleveland; Aubrey Lucas, Hattiesburg,(Emeritus); Jan Taylor, Jackson; Jean Medley, Jackson; Ted Atkinson, Starkville; Scott Naugle, Pass Christian. Other members not pictured: George Bassi, Laurel; David Beckley, Holly Springs; Jennifer Long, Greenwood; Beth Kander-Dalphin, Chicago, IL; JoAnne Morris, Jackson; Cora Norman, Crossville, TN (Emerita); Sandra Shellnut, Pass Christian; James G. Thomas, Jr. Oxford; Mark Wiggs, Jackson; Swan Yerger, Jackson, Lester Senter Wilson, Jackson; and Leila Wynn, Greenville.

MIAL Board Member Featured in Jackson Free Press Article

Congratulations to MIAL Board Member Pete Halverson who was recently featured in an article in the Jackson Free Press. Halverson, Senior Book Designer at University Press of Mississippi, oozes with talent. Of his involvement with MIAL, Halverson told Jackson Free Press, "MIAL is important because they support artists and writers and musicians, and give them recognition that they may not receive otherwise. Creative fields can be difficult to make a living in, so I think whenever you can help out the people that are really putting their life into the arts, then we should support them."

Well said, Pete! We hope all of you will consider supporting MIAL with a membership. Already a member? Using the form below or by visiting our website, please consider raising your membership level. Remember, too, only members may nominate work for awards.

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MIAL Call for Nominations

Nominations are due **January 15, 2018**, for this year's awards. Members only are allowed to nominate individuals for awards. MIAL welcomes new members, and anyone may join. Please see the Membership and Nomination form in this newsletter or visit our website at www.ms-arts-letters.org. For more information contact Margaret Robbins, Executive Secretary, 662-523-0899 or ms.arts.letters@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars

June 2, 2018 will be the date for the 39th Annual MIAL Awards Banquet. The Banquet will be held at The Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson, Mississippi. Make your plans to attend and support the talent in our state.



MIAL Participates in Mississippi Book Festival

The MIAL booth at the Mississippi Book Festival, held on the grounds of the state capitol in downtown Jackson on August 19, 2017, was once again a success. Many posters, MIAL bookmarks and membership brochures were distributed. Several previous MIAL Award winners, as well as MIAL members, were on the program for the day. We enjoyed visiting with old and new friends and sharing information about MIAL and the work we do. Pictured above is event chairperson, Robin Dietrick, Clinton.