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Now in its 35th year!

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2013 Award Winners Honored

The Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL) held its 34th Awards Banquet on the campus of Mississippi University for Women on June 8, 2013, in Columbus, Mississippi. The weekend included readings and performances by MIAL winners; the annual membership meeting; a reception hosted by Dr. James Borsig, MUW President; and the banquet. At the annual membership meeting, George Bassi was elected the new president and Donzell Lee the new vice-president.

The Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Patti Carr Black, is a native of Sumner, Mississippi, and longtime director of the State Historical Museum. Ms. Black, a graduate of MSCW and Emory University, began her career with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History after having worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Time, Inc. At Archives and History, she moved from librarian to exhibits designer to director of the State Historical Museum to Director of the Museum Division. A founder of New Stage Theater in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Mississippi Museums Association, she is also the author of more than twenty publications and of many exhibit catalogs. Her works include *Art in Mississippi, 1720-1980*; *Literary Tour of Mississippi*; and *Mules of Mississippi*. Among her many awards are the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, the MIAL Non-fiction Award, the Governor's Award for the Arts, and the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

Richard Ford was presented the Fiction Award for his novel *Canada*. Andre Dubus III, writing in the *New York Times*, states that *Canada* "is an examination of the redemptive power of articulated memory, and it is a masterwork by one of our finest writers working at the top of his form." Ford, born in Jackson, Mississippi, has published six novels and four collections of stories. He has won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/ Faulkner Award for Fiction. He is also a previous winner of the MIAL Fiction Award.

Winning the Nonfiction Award was Joseph Crespino, Professor of History and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Emory University. Raised in Macon, Mississippi, Dr. Crespino won the award with his book *Strom Thurmond's America*, a political biography of the longtime U.S. Senator from South Carolina. The book, which examines Thurmond both as one of the last Jim Crow demagogues and also as one of the modern architects of the postwar conservatism that has remade the Republican Party, is praised by Doris Kearns Goodwin as "a thoroughly terrific and important work." Dr. Crespino is also a previous winner in the MIAL nonfiction category.

Chosen as winner of the Poetry Award, Catherine Pierce of Starkville, Mississippi, won for her work *The Girls of Peculiar*. Dr. Pierce teaches and co-directs the creative writing program at Mississippi State University and is the author of two books of poetry and one chapbook. Of Pierce's winning book, the poet Beth Ann Fennelly states, "The big themes here-self-identity, desire, escape- are illuminated with clarity, scored musically, and enlivened with wit."

David Wharton, photographer and Director of Documentary Studies and Assistant Professor of Southern Studies at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, was presented the Photography Award for his book *Small Town South*. Rob Amberg, photographer, calls Wharton's book "a slow, winding visual delight of detail and uniqueness." Dr. Wharton received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas and lives in Oxford.

Lee Renninger of Gulfport, Mississippi, won the MIAL Visual Arts Award for her work *Botanica*. A ceramic-based installation artist, Renninger is the recipient of the Jane Crater Hiatt Fellowship and the Pollack-Krasner Grant. She states, "I choose to treat clay antithetically-using the material in ways that defy its history and fundamental nature."

Receiving the Music Composition-Classical Award was Dr. Steve Rouse, a native of Moss Point, Mississippi, for his composition *Sonata for Violin and Piano*. A professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Louisville School of Music, Dr. Rouse is also a winner of the Rome Prize and a National Endowment for the Arts Composition Fellowship.

Born in Canton, Mississippi, Caroline Herring was presented the Music Composition-Contemporary Award for her album *Camilla*. A co-founder of Thacker Mountain Radio and the only American represented in the prestigious Cecil Sharp Project in England, Herring is also a previous winner in this category. Of her new album, she states, "To me, *Camilla* is about grief and injustice. Deep love and hope. Perseverance. Heroes."

Each winner in the juried categories received a cash prize of \$1000.00 and a Mississippi-crafted gift. The gift presented this year to each winner was a unique oval porcelain platter designed and created by Ron Dale of Irondale Studio in Oxford.

Sponsors for the cash awards to this year's winners included: Fiction, *The Mississippi Quarterly*; Nonfiction, Pass Christian Books/Cat Island Coffeehouse; Poetry, Mary Thompson, Jenny Long, and Damian Augsberger in honor of Samuel William Long; Musical Composition (Classical), the Family of Keith Dockery McLean; Musical Composition (Popular), Nan and Mike Sanders; Photography, Sandra and Tom Shellnut; and Visual Arts, Gemma and David Beckley in memory of Gwendolyn Magee. We are very grateful to these sponsors for their continued support of the talented and creative MIAL winners.



Pictured L to R: Master of Ceremonies Dr. James Borsig, MUW President; Joseph Crespino; Steve Rouse; Caroline Herring; Patti Carr Black; David Wharton; Richard Ford; Catherine Pierce; and Sandra Shellnut, MIAL President. Not Pictured: Lee Renninger.



George Bassi, Laurel, congratulates 2013 Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Patti Carr Black. The Board of Governors voted in January 2013 to henceforth re-name the Lifetime Achievement Award after founding member Noel Polk for his vision and years of service to the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.



Awards Banquet Chair, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, welcomes everyone to the afternoon reading and book signing, held at Poindexter Hall. Along with readings by Joseph Crespino, Richard Ford, Catherine Pierce and David Wharton, the audience enjoyed Caroline Herring's musical performance.



MIAL Treasurer Jan Taylor and her husband, Zach Taylor, visit with MUW President Dr. James Borsig at the reception held at the president's home.



MIAL newly-elected member to the Board of Governors, Jean Medley, and her husband, Tim Medley, visit with Judge Swan Yerger, a long-time member of the Board of Governors.

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 **2013**. Members may nominate more than one individual in any category. One page of comments may be included in support of nomination. 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 up to 15 pieces first publicly shown or published in 2013. Submit CD, slides, prints, or published work.

PHOTOGRAPHY (color, black and white, combination) Eligible are up to 15 photographs first publicly shown or published in 2013. Submit CD, slides, prints, or published work.

FICTION (novel, short story collection, etc.) Eligible is work first published in 2013. 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 2013. 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 2013, or a collection of at least 15 poems published in book form for the first time in 2013 (poems in the collection may have been first published earlier than 2013). Submit complete tear sheets or publication.

MUSIC COMPOSITION-CONCERT (song, opera, composition, instrumental music, etc.) This award is for works first published or performed publicly in 2013. Submit evidence of initial performance or publication (book, CD, tape, score) in 2013.

MUSIC COMPOSITION-POPULAR (blues, country music, jazz, rock, etc.) Submit published scores or the commercial recording first released in 2013. (Songs in a collection may have been 1st published earlier than 2013.)

Deadline: Nominations must be postmarked on or before **January 15, 2014**. Attach the artist's representative work (slides, photographs, CD's, books, 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
Jenny Long
991 County Road 188
Greenwood, MS 38930

MUSIC COMPOSITION—POPULAR
Mark Wiggs
917 Arlington Street
Jackson, MS 39202

VISUAL ARTS
Marjorie Selvidge
405 Lakeview Dr.
Oxford, MS 38655

NONFICTION
James G. Thomas, Jr.
310 Dogwood Dr.
Oxford, MS 38655

PHOTOGRAPHY
Robin Dietrick
410 Mallory St.
Clinton, MS 39056

MUSIC COMPOSITION—CONCERT
Ann Abadie
2238 Lee Loop
Oxford, MS 38655

FICTION
Scott Naugle
1302 East Second Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571

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): _____

**Contributions received in Memory
of Noel Polk
(Received after October 2012 Newsletter)**

Jane Britt and Allen Greenwood
Kathy and Randy Harber
Nancy and Paul Jacobs
Lucy and Robert Phillips
Jane Ellen and Mike Rawdon
Melina and Scott Runnels
Beverly Scafidel
William L. Thames

**Contributions received in Memory
of Josephine Haxton (Ellen Douglas)**

Ann and Dale Abadie
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Dorothy Shawhan

**Contributions received in Memory
of Marshall Bouldin**

Ann and Dale Abadie
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MIAL Endowment Fund

Noel Polk Estate
Judge and Mrs. Swan Yerger

In 2011 the MIAL Board of Governors established the MIAL Endowment Fund to ensure that future Mississippi writers, musicians, and artists will continue to be recognized. Dr. Noel Polk left a very generous gift through his estate to this fund, making it a reality. Also, all memorial gifts received go directly into the MIAL Endowment Fund.

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 web-site www.ms-arts-letters.org or by mailing to:

MIAL Endowment Fund
Jan Taylor
P. O. Box 2346
Jackson, MS 39225-2346

Please indicate that your donation is intended for the Endowment Fund and if it is a memorial gift.

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University Press of Mississippi, Jackson
Walter Anderson Museum of Art, Ocean Springs
William Carey University, Hattiesburg

**Welcome to the Newly Elected Members
MIAL Board of Governors**

Beth Kander, Ridgeland, and **Jean Medley**, Jackson, were elected in January to the MIAL Board of Governors. **Lawrence Deas**, Tupelo, and **Nancy LaForge**, Cleveland, were elected in June at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Dr. Nicholas Cummins, of Cleveland, Mississippi, recently resigned and an election will be held at the January 2014 meeting to fill his unexpired term.

**New Category added to our
Board of Governors**

At the request of Dr. Aubrey Lucas, who has been a member of our Board of Governors for the entire 35 years, a new category has been created on our board. Dr. Aubrey Lucas and Dr. Cora Norman, both founding members of our organization, were granted the Emeritus/Emerita status at our June Annual Meeting. With this distinction, these valued members have the right to attend and participate in discussions at all meetings of the Board but shall have no Board voting rights nor be eligible for service as a Board Officer or Category Chair. We are delighted that these two valued members are willing to continue in this capacity, as we value them highly.

**Dues and Donations Now Being Accepted
On-line at www.ms-arts-letters.org**

We are pleased to announce that our membership dues and donations to our newly established MIAL Endowment Fund may now be made directly from our web site. Please indicate "Membership Dues" or "Donation to Endowment Fund" when using this method of payment.

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Visit our Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Facebook page and share the good work we do, honoring the talent in Mississippi, with all of your Friends.

Mississippi
Institute of
Arts & Letters

Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award
Patti Carr Black

Nonfiction
Joseph Crespino

Music Composition Contemporary
Caroline Herring

Music Composition Classical
Steve Rouse

Fiction
Richard Ford

Visual Arts
Lee Renninger

Photography
David Wharton

Poetry
Catherine Pierce

34th Annual Awards
Celebrating Our 2013 Winners
Saturday, June 8
Mississippi University for Women
Columbus, Mississippi
Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters
P.O. Box 2346 • Jackson, MS 39225
662-523-0899 • www.ms-arts-letters.org

MIAL 2013 Poster

We are very grateful to Ann and Dale Abadie and Ella and Aubrey Lucas for once again sponsoring the MIAL Poster. For the past six years we have been publishing posters of our winners and these may be viewed on the Gallery tab of our web site. Posters are also mailed to all state libraries, bookstores, art galleries and distributed by members of our Board of Governors.

We appreciate the different sponsors we have had over the years and feel that the poster is an effective means of both promoting our winners and serving as a historical record. Anyone interested in this sponsorship should contact MIAL at ms.art.letters@gmail.com or any board member.



Members of the MIAL Board of Governors attending the fall meeting at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson: Pictured (1st row, L-R) Donzell Lee, Margaret Robbins, George Bassi, Sandra Shellnut, Jan Taylor: (2nd row, L-R) Pete Halverson, Marion Barnwell, Dorothy Shawhan, Mary Thompson, Jenny Long, Nancy LaForge, Bridget Pieschel, Beth Kander, Jean Medley; (3rd row, L-R) Aubrey Lucas, Robin Dietrick, Marjorie Selvidge, Lawrence Deas, JoAnne Morris, and Mark Wiggs.

2013-2014 MIAL Membership Form

(Please complete and return this form.)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Renewal New Membership

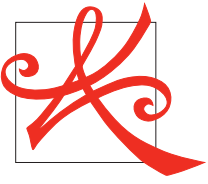
CIRCLE the appropriate membership category:

- Student \$15
- Individual \$35
- Contributing \$60
- Sustaining \$125
- Institutional \$150
- Patron \$1,000

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Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters
 Jan Taylor, Treasurer
 P. O. Box 2346
 Jackson, MS 39225-2346

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2013-2014 Officers elected at the annual Membership Meeting are: Pictured (1st row L-R): Donzell Lee, Alcorn, Vice President; Margaret Robbins, Pontotoc, Secretary; George Bassi, Laurel, President; Sandra Shelhnut, Pass Christian, Past President; Jan Taylor, Jackson, Treasurer; Not pictured: Nancy Guice, Laurel, Archivist.



Co-chairmen Marion Barnwell and Jean Medley and their committee are busy making plans for the 35th Awards Banquet. Plan to join us for this festive event at the Mississippi Museum of Art on June 7, 2014.

**2014 Awards Banquet – June 7, 2014
 Jackson, Mississippi**

MIAL Call for Nominations
 Nominations are due **January 15, 2014**, 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 Anne Robbins, Executive Secretary, 662-523-0899 or ms.arts.letters@gmail.com.