

The 26th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration
Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Mississippi Department of Archives and History
with the support of Natchez National Historical Park and Mississippi Humanities Council
Presents

BIGGER THAN LIFE: EXTRAORDINARY MISSISSIPPIANS

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 26-28, 2015 - Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi
All events are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Pre-Conference Event

Thursday, February 26, 2015

6:30 p.m. Screening of *Mud*, a coming-of-age, international award-winning film written and directed by **Jeff Nichols**, Austin, Tex., winner of the 2015 NLCC Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting

Conference Events

Friday, February 27, 2015 – Celebrating the Centennial Birthday of Margaret Walker (1915-1998)

9 a.m. Opening ceremony with **Ronnie Nettles**, President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College; **Larry “Butch” Brown**, Mayor of the City of Natchez; and **William F. Winter**, Jackson, Miss., President Emeritus, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and NLCC Director of Proceedings

9:15-10 a.m. “Mississippi's Creative Economy,” a keynote address by **Malcolm White**, Director, Tourism Division, Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

10-10:30 a.m. Remarks by **Thad Cochran** (U.S. Senate/R-Miss.) and presentation of the Thad Cochran Humanities Achievement Award to **James F. Barnett, Jr.**, Director Emeritus of the Division of Historic Properties, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Natchez

10:45-11:30 a.m. “**John Roy Lynch** and **L.Q.C. Lamar**: ‘Two of a [Different] Kind’” by **David G. Sansing**, Professor of History Emeritus, University of Mississippi, author of *Mississippi History Through Four Centuries*; *The University of Mississippi: A Sesquicentennial History*; *Making Haste Slowly: The Troubled History of Higher Education in Mississippi*; *What Was Freedom’s Price?: Essays*; and *Natchez: An Illustrated History*

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. “Midcentury **Faulkner**: Public Performances of a Worldly Mississippian” by **Ted Atkinson**, Professor of English and Editor, *The Mississippi Quarterly*, Mississippi State University, and author of *Faulkner and the Great Depression: Aesthetics, Ideology, and Cultural Politics*

1:30-2:30 p.m. “Mississippians: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” by **Curtis Wilkie**, University of Mississippi, author of *Assassins, Eccentrics, Politicians and Other Persons of Interest: Fifty Pieces from the Road*; *Arkansas Mischief: Birth of a National Scandal*; *Dixie: A Personal Odyssey Through Events That Shaped the Modern South*; *City Adrift: New Orleans Before and After Katrina*; and *The Fall of the House of Zeus*

3-5 p.m. “Mississippi’s Four W’s in Literature: **Eudora Welty**, **Tennessee Williams**, **Margaret Walker**, and **Richard Wright**” by **Carolyn J. Brown**, Jackson, Miss., author of *A Daring Life: A Biography of Eudora Welty* and *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*; **Robert Bray**, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, author of *Tennessee Williams and His Contemporaries* and *Hollywood’s Tennessee: The Williams Films and Postwar America*; and **Maryemma Graham**, University of Kansas, Lawrence, author of *Cambridge History of African American Literature*; *Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel*; *Conversations with Margaret Walker*; and *Fields Watered with Blood: Critical Essays on Margaret Walker*

5-6 p.m. Reception, **Natchez Museum of Afro-American Culture**, 301 Main Street (\$10 at the door)

7:30-10 p.m. "For My People," a multi-media musical program based on **Margaret Walker's** poetry by pianist/director **Randy Klein** and soloist **Aurelia Williams**, both of New York, N.Y., with **the Jackson State University Chorale**, Jackson, Miss., and the screening of illustrative materials, Trinity Episcopal Church, 305 South Commerce Street (\$10)

Saturday, February 28, 2015 – Family Day at the NLCC

9 a.m. Introduction of winners of the NLCC's Chocolate Milk Café, a writing project for young students

9:05-10:15 a.m. "**Craig Claiborne** and the Delta: He Left It, But It Never Left Him" by **Thomas McNamee**, San Francisco, author of *The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat: Craig Claiborne and the American Food Renaissance* and *Alice Waters and Chez Panisse: The Romantic, Impractical, Often Eccentric, Ultimately Brilliant Making of a Food Revolution*

10:30-12 p.m. Writing awards ceremony

Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award

- **Glen Ballard**, Los Angeles, Calif., a Natchez native who is writer/co-writer of lyrics and music for *Ghost the Musical*, Michael Jackson, Paula Abdul, Wilson Phillips, Lisa Marie Presley, Dave Matthews Band, Stevie Nicks, Ringo Starr, and others, and winner of six Grammy Awards, including the 2006 Grammy Award for Best Song, "Believe," in *The Polar Express*
- **Robert V. Haynes**, Professor of History Emeritus, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, author of *The Mississippi Territory and the Southwest Frontier, 1795-1817*; *The Natchez District and the American Revolution*; and *A Night of Violence: The Houston Riot of 1917*, and winner of the Mississippi Historical Society's McLemore Prize

Horton Foote Award for Special Achievement in Screenwriting

- **Jeff Nichols**, Austin, Tex., writer and director of *Mud*; *Take Shelter*; *Shotgun Stories*; and *Midnight Special* (2015) and winner of the 2014 Robert Altman Independent Spirit Award and the 2012 Cannes Film Festival Critics Week Grand Prize

12-1:45 p.m. "Luncheon a la **Craig Claiborne**," Carriage House at Stanton Hall, 401 High Street, featuring Craig Claiborne's favorite recipes, with remarks by **Regina Charboneau** of Natchez, author of *Regina's Table at Twin Oaks* and *Mississippi Current Cookbook: A Culinary Journey down America's Greatest River* (\$25)

2-3:15 p.m. "Mississippi Sports: A State of Legends" by **Rick Cleveland**, Executive Director, Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson, author of *Mississippi's Greatest Athletes* (Foreword by **Archie Manning**, New Orleans, La.); *It's More Than a Game*; *Vaught: The Man and His Legacy*; and *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well Lived*

3:30-4:45 p.m. "**Jim Henson: From the Mississippi Delta to Hollywood--and Beyond**" by **Brian Jay Jones**, Damascus, Md., author of *Jim Henson: The Biography*; *Washington Irving: An American Original*; and *Washington Irving: The Definitive Biography of America's First Bestselling Author*

5:30-7:45 p.m. Gala benefit reception/dinner honoring award winners and speakers, **King's Tavern**, 613 Jefferson Street, one of the oldest buildings in Mississippi (\$145, with \$100 tax-deductible)

8-10:15 p.m. "How Mississippi Changed the Music World," a multi-media presentation by **Ted Gioia**, Dallas, Tex., music historian and author of *Delta Blues*; *The Jazz Standards: A Guide to the Repertoire*; *The History of Jazz*; *Work Songs*; and *Healing Songs*

"First Came the Blues," a performance by **Vasti Jackson**, Hattiesburg, Miss., guitarist, vocalist, Cultural Ambassador of Mississippi for the Mississippi Development Authority, and member of the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame; performance in cooperation with the Natchez Festival of Music