



**PRESS  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE EVENT TO BE HELD IN MONTGOMERY MARCH 25**

A special presentation and panel response on civility, “Daring to Defend Our Rights: A Discussion of Civility in Alabama Public Life,” will be held on Friday, March 25, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. at the Alabama Power Auditorium at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. The forum is sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life.

The author of the winning paper of the 2011 Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award will begin the program with an address on the topic of civility, the subject of the recent 50-state tour by National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jim Leach. The Whetstone-Seaman Faculty Development Award and Humanities Forum are AHF initiatives to offer Alabama scholars the opportunity for professional development and improvement of their teaching competencies. Each dean of arts and sciences in Alabama was invited to nominate the most outstanding, promising humanities scholar at his/her institution to participate in a forum. Each scholar submitted a paper on “Civility: What Does Civility Mean in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Debate” to present at the forum.

The presentation will be followed by responses from five Alabamians, including noteworthy Alabama historian and Anniston Star columnist Dr. Harvey H. Jackson; media personality Tim Lennox; Birmingham entrepreneur and author Shelley Stewart; Central High School (Phenix City) gifted education teacher Barbara Romey; and David Mathews Center for Civic Life intern/Auburn University student Alexandria Smith. Christopher McCauley of the David Mathews Center will moderate discussion.

The event is co-sponsored by the David Mathews Center for Civic Life ([mathewscenter.org](http://mathewscenter.org)) and the Alabama Humanities Foundation ([ahf.net](http://ahf.net)). There is no cost to attend and refreshments will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more information, contact the Mathews Center at (205) 665-9005 or the Alabama Humanities Foundation at (205) 558-3993.

#### **About the Alabama Humanities Foundation**

The purpose of the Alabama Humanities Foundation is to create and foster opportunities to explore human values and meanings through the humanities. AHF is a nonprofit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (of which AHF is the state affiliate), as well as by corporate and individual donors. AHF conducts its own statewide programs, such as the Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, SUPER teacher institutes and SUPER Emerging Scholars for students, and awards grants, on a competitive basis, to nonprofit organizations for humanities projects. For more information on AHF and its programs, please visit [ahf.net](http://ahf.net) or call (205) 558-3980.

#### **About the David Mathews Center for Civic Life**

The David Mathews Center for Civic Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. The Center's purpose is to foster infrastructure, habits, and capacities for more effective civic engagement and innovative public decision-making. The Mathews Center is focused on how citizens create political will and sustain public policy through community decisions. For more information on the Mathews Center, please visit [mathewscenter.org](http://mathewscenter.org) or call (205) 665-9005.

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