



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DATES FOR SUMMER PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS

The **Alabama Humanities Foundation** is currently accepting applications for the **2011 SUPER institutes**. Since 1991, AHF has taken a leading role in the advancement of Alabama education with the SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal) teacher program. This program provides graduate-level, content-rich, professional development of the highest quality to outstanding 4th-12th-grade public and private school teachers who wish to expand and deepen their knowledge of a particular subject or theme within the humanities.

This summer, institutes will be held at the **University of Montevallo June 6-8**, at **Troy University in Troy June 19-24**, at the **AHF offices in Birmingham June 28-30** and at **Spring Hill College in Mobile July 10-15**.

The aim of SUPER is to increase participants' subject knowledge and, in turn, their confidence, enthusiasm and effectiveness as educators. The content in these programs directly addresses the Courses of Study as mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education. Upon completion of a SUPER program, participants receive a certificate documenting hours earned toward continuing education units (CEUs) for submission within their own districts.

The following are the 2011 SUPER institutes:

“Mexico and Guatemala in Crisis: An Ethical and Literary Perspective”

Spanish immersion institute

Led by: Leonor Vázquez-González, Ph.D., University of Montevallo

Site: University of Montevallo, Montevallo

Dates: June 6-8

Residential (Lodging and all meals provided.)

CEUs: 24 contact hours

The institutional survival of countries such as Mexico and Guatemala is in question. This three-day, residential, Spanish immersion institute explores the causes of some current issues within this multifaceted crisis. The purpose of this activity is to provide teachers in the State of Alabama with a deeper understanding of the causes of some of the most pressing issues faced by Mexican and Guatemalan societies.

“Vietnam, Vietnamese-Americans and Vietnam at War”

Led by: Noel Harold Kaylor, Jr., Ph.D., Troy University

Site: Troy University, Troy

Dates: June 19-24

Residential (Lodging and all meals provided.)

CEUs: 45 contact hours

Vietnam is of great interest in the State of Alabama because of its growing importance for educational, economic and cultural interactions with U.S. institutions, corporations and individuals. Since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam in the early 1990s, a rapidly growing culture of mutual respect and cooperation is emerging. In the present period of unprecedented global communication and economic interdependence, not only do students need to have a strong familiarity with rising giants such as China and India, but also dynamic, smaller nations like Vietnam.

“Transcendentalism Light and Dark: Strategies for Teaching the Writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, Dickinson and Whitman”

Led by: Gale Temple, Ph.D., University of Alabama Birmingham

Site: Alabama Humanities Foundation, Birmingham

Dates: June 28-30

Three-day non-residential institute (Lodging, breakfast and dinner not provided)

CEUs: 24 contact hours

This institute will impart practical and engaging strategies for teaching the writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Whitman and Poe. The focus of the sessions will be on connecting the works of these important antebellum writers to the social and political debates and discourses that were prevalent in antebellum America, and that continue to resonate in the lives of Americans today.

“The Alabama Coast: A Sense of Place”

Led by: Frye Gaillard, writer-in-residence, University of South Alabama

Site: Spring Hill College, Mobile

Dates: July 10-15

Residential (Lodging and all meals provided.)

CEUs: 45 contact hours

This institute will explore the history and culture of the Alabama Gulf Coast, with special attention to the recent BP oil spill. The coastal disaster of 2010 has left a cloud of uncertainty over the economy, the environment and the way of life in this part of Alabama. But there is also a deep sense of place that sustains its people. This institute will examine the components of that identity—the history, literature, music, food and coastal economy that have tied the residents of lower Alabama to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the vast river delta so critical to the life of the region.

For more details about each individual institute, and to apply, visit ahf.net or contact **Thomas Bryant**, AHF Director of Programs and SUPER Manager, at (205) 558-3997.

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 or call (205) 558-3980.

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