



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **HUMANITIES FOUNDATION AWARDS TWO ALMA BRYANT STUDENTS FOR DOCUMENTING THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH PHOTOS**

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Humanities Foundation held a reception **Thursday, April 28**, at the RSA Towers, hosted by Regions Bank and sponsored by The University of Alabama Department of Arts and Sciences and the University of South Alabama. At the reception, AHF recognized two local students from Alma Bryant High School, Maria Pulido and Sherman Shoemaker, who excelled this year in the school's photography program on the Gulf Coast community. Their photos were on display at the reception, and a \$100 gift card and certificate of achievement was awarded.

The reception was held prior to AHF's board meeting the following day, and served to inform Gulf Coast constituents, business leaders, and scholars about the many statewide programs and grants projects it conducts.

One important program coming to Mobile this summer is **SUPER Emerging Scholars (SES)**, a program that directly fosters opportunities for high-school students to examine the significance of their own cultural values and meanings through in-depth studies of literature, history and the arts. SES institutes are weeklong residential workshops that will assist upper-level high-school students in the development of writing and critical thinking skills necessary for success in secondary and post-secondary education.

This summer, SES comes to **the University of South Alabama, Mobile**, June 19-25 to examine the survival stories of the communities affected by the **recent oil drilling disaster and Hurricane Katrina**. Led by Kern Jackson, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and folklorist and oral narrative data collector, students will learn about how these two major historical events have defined the Gulf Coast community. This institute will be conducted in partnership with the Academic Affairs Office of the University of South Alabama.

A second program coming to Mobile this summer is **SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal)**. Since 1991, AHF has taken a leading role in the advancement of Alabama education with the SUPER teacher program. This program provides graduate-level, content-rich, professional development of the highest quality to outstanding 4th-12<sup>th</sup>-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, a weeklong institute held at **Spring Hill College, Mobile**, will examine **"The Alabama Coast: A Sense of Place."** Held July 10-15 and led by Frye Gaillard, writer-in-residence, University of South Alabama, 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.

Finally, the Mobile community can look forward to the traveling exhibition “**Journey Stories**” coming to the **National African American Archives & Multicultural Museum** on November 16, 2011-January 2, 2012. This exhibition is a collaborative effort between the Smithsonian Institute and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. “Journey Stories” tells the story of how we, and our ancestors, came to America. America’s history is filled with stories of people leaving everything behind to reach a new life in another state, across the continent, or even across an ocean. “Journey Stories” will use engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society.

#### **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.

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