



Alabama Humanities Foundation

1100 Ireland Way | Birmingham, Alabama 35206
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Road Scholars Speakers Bureau

Requests for presentations

What is the speakers bureau?

The **Alabama Humanities Foundation** (AHF) is now looking for scholars to serve on its speakers bureau. As the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the AHF is a private, nonprofit organization. Its programs are funded by the NEH and the State of Alabama, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals. The speakers bureau is one of the AHF's ongoing programs that attempts to foster lifelong learning by bringing scholars and the general public together to explore fundamental questions. Now in its twenty-fourth year, the speakers bureau provides communities throughout the state with hour-long public presentations on a variety of humanities topics.

Speakers bureau presentations use humanities disciplines to explore the events, issues, and values that shape and color our lives. We consider humanities disciplines to include history, philosophy, languages, literature, archaeology, jurisprudence, history and criticism of the arts, ethics, comparative religion, linguistics, social sciences employing historical or philosophical approaches, and cultural anthropology. In addition, we welcome proposals that use these disciplines to address social, political, environmental, and economic issues.

Who is the audience?

Speakers bureau audiences are comprised of Alabamians involved in historical societies, friends of the library, senior groups, student and teacher assemblies, faith assemblies, book clubs, civic organizations and other nonprofit community organizations. While audiences may range from fifteen to several hundred, the average size is thirty. The interaction between the speaker and the audience is an essential part of speakers bureau programs, and our speakers have found their audiences to be enthusiastic and responsive. All speakers bureau programs are open to the general public.

What is the selection process?

The speakers bureau is now accepting presentation proposals on a rolling basis. Thus, applications can be submitted year round. In 2011, there will be two submission dates. Beginning in 2012 and each year thereafter, AHF will have three submission dates per year. The programs committee of the

board will review the proposals, decide which presentations will comprise the new bureau and notify all applicants of acceptance/rejection within four to six weeks of the deadline.

2011-2012 Submission Deadlines for committee review and approval

1. March 25, 2011- Spring
2. September 1, 2011 -Fall
3. January 2, 2012
4. March 26, 2012
5. September 4, 2012

How is the program administered?

Upon acceptance of proposals, AHF will add presentation descriptions and speaker profiles to its online catalog. An announcement will also be sent to libraries, museums, schools and other community groups statewide. Interested parties will then contact speakers directly to schedule programs, notifying the AHF after specific arrangements have been made. Programs are scheduled at the speaker's convenience; however, we ask that all speakers be prepared to accept at least five programs per year (*note: contingent upon available funds*) and be willing to travel. Speakers receive an honorarium and are reimbursed for travel. The current honorarium is \$175.00 for standard audiences and \$225.00 for teacher groups, travel is reimbursed at .445 cents per mile.

Who is Eligible?

Applicants must have a Masters or Ph.D. in a humanities discipline and be engaged in some capacity with humanities studies, research or teaching. We encourage applications from college and university professors as well as independent scholars. Speakers must not only be experts on their presentation topics, but also skilled in public speaking and in facilitating audience participation.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should contain the following:

-Cover Letter: Include your name, home and office addresses, home and office phone numbers, fax number and email address.

-Lecture Description: Provide the title and a two-page summary (12 pt. font, double spaced) of your presentation. Please also explain what humanities disciplines the presentation encompasses, why the topic is important and interesting to the general public and/or teachers, and how you will engage the audience in dialogue, for example, through thought-provoking questions, hand-outs, A/V materials, photographs, artifacts, suggested readings, etc.

-Curriculum Vita: Provide a condensed CV (12 pt. font, two pages max). Include information about what qualifies you as an expert on your presentation topic as well as information about your public speaking experience outside the classroom.

-References: Provide the names and phone numbers of at least two professional references who can attest to your speaking abilities.

Applicants are required to submit photos or video documentation providing an example of their performance style in addition to the proposal package. If accepted, applicants will need to provide us with a digital headshot for the online catalog.

The AHF speakers bureau is non-thematic. However, we are looking for submissions on the following topics:

- Immigration History and Stories
- Civil Rights Movement in Alabama
- Immigration and the ever changing face of America
- Inter-migration of African Americans
- Alabama Immigration (Germans, Greeks, Southeast Asians)
- America's Westward Expansion
- Music History (Rock n' Roll, Country, Hip-Hop, Jazz)
- Mark Twain, Truman Capote and other celebrated Alabama authors
- War of 1812 and removal of the Creeks from Alabama
- The Trail of Tears
- Alabama's Native American history and heritage
- Civil War
- International Affairs
- Helen Keller
- China and the rise of East Asia

Presentations that relate to Alabama history, folklore, and literature are especially popular with our audiences. We welcome presentations that can be presented in a bilingual format. All presentations should be fifty minutes in length, followed by ten minutes of Q & A.

How to Apply:

Submit the Road Scholar Speakers Bureau Proposal package with all required elements: cover letter, lecture description, curriculum vitae, and references via e-mail to mchambers@ahf.net or via mail to:

Alabama Humanities Foundation

c/o Michael L. Chambers, II

1100 Ireland Way

Suite 101

Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Questions? Contact Michael L. Chambers, II at 205-558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net

To view current speakers and topics in our speakers bureau, please visit our website at www.ahf.net and click on "Programs".