

VOLUME I,  
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2010

**What:**  
25th anniversary  
exhibition of the  
Blues Archive

**Where:**  
Archives &  
Special Collections,  
J. D. Williams Library,  
University of Mississippi

**When:**  
August 2009 -  
August 2010  
Monday thru Friday  
8am until 5pm

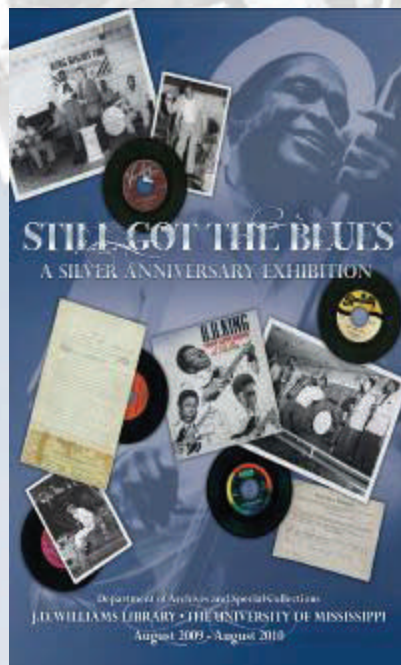
**Contact:**  
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Blues Curator and  
Associate Professor  
(662) 915-7753  
[gjl@olemiss.edu](mailto:gjl@olemiss.edu)

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# Archives & Special Collections Newsletter

## STILL GOT THE BLUES: A SILVER ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION



The [Blues Archive](#) opened its doors to the public in the fall of 1984. This September, Archives and Special Collections celebrates this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the opening of *Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition*. This exhibit traces the history of blues scholarship at the University of Mississippi and highlights unique blues holdings through displays in Archives and Special Collections' Faulkner Room. In 1907, more than ten years before commercial recordings of blues music and decades before the folk revival and other serious examinations of African American roots music, University of Mississippi graduate student Howard Odum travelled across Lafayette County, recording black folk songs onto wax cylinders. These cylinders, now lost, captured the earliest recordings of African American performances of blues or proto-blues music. Venturing into essentially uncharted territory, Odum helped set the stage for future university-sponsored academic interest in

the blues. Seventy years later, in-depth study of blues at the University of Mississippi began with the founding of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture in 1977. The Center offers courses in blues music, history, and culture; publishes *Living Blues Magazine*; and co-hosts the annual *Blues Today: A Living Blues Symposium*. Established by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and operated through the University Libraries, the Blues Archive was the brainchild of the Center's first director Dr. William Ferris. The archive resided with the music library in Farley Hall until 2002, when it merged with Archives and Special Collections in the J. D. Williams Library. Despite this physical and administrative shift, the mission of the Blues Archive remains essentially the same: *To acquire and preserve blues and blues-related materials in a variety of formats for scholars of the blues, African American studies, and southern culture*. An announcement of the opening of the Blues Archive in the Spring 1984 issue of *Living Blues* states, "When opened, this archive will be the finest of its kind anywhere in the world, and its resources will be available to all blues scholars and researchers." (continues on page 2)



B.B. King Collection

*“Do you really know what the blues is? It’s a feeling... It’s telling a story, an inside life feeling. This goes way back. Sending the message. Telling a story.”* Snooky Pryor



Muddy Waters Collection

## Continued...Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition

With collections from B. B. King, [Sheldon Harris](#), Kenneth Goldstein, Trumpet Records, *Living Blues*, Percy Mayfield, The Red Tops, Gayle Dean Wardlow, and many others, this prediction has come true. The archive currently houses more than 60,000 audio recordings from wax cylinders to compact discs; over 20,000 photographs; 7,000 books, magazines, and newsletters; 900 video recordings; and many collections of manuscripts, posters, and ephemera.

The Blues Archive continues to expand with the donation of new collections, such as the recently acquired Sid Graves Collection of materials related to the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale and the [David Hinckley Collection](#) of three hundred 78 rpm records. Scholars utilize resources in the archive for books, articles, documentaries and more, though visitors need not conduct serious research to use the archive. Every year, fans from around the world visit Oxford, MS to examine commercially unavailable audio and video recordings of their favorite blues performers.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition tips its hat to all those who have helped further the field of blues scholarship at the University of Mississippi through teaching, writing, and producing films and radio programs on the blues. In addition to examining the story of the Blues Archive, this exhibition follows *Living Blues* from its 1970 origins in Chicago to its current place at the University of Mississippi.

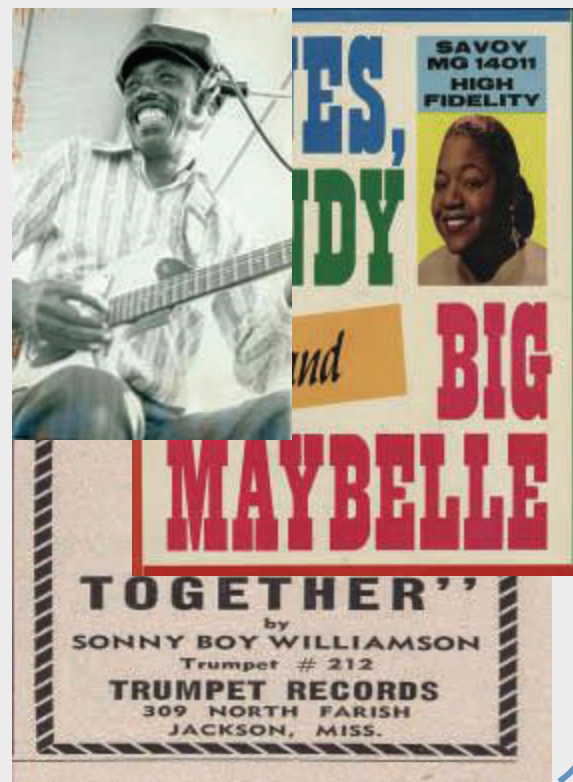
Blues Archive: [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\\_library/archives/blues/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/archives/blues/)

Sheldon Harris: <http://130.74.92.141/harris.php>

David Hinckley: <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM01710/>

It also showcases rare and historically significant holdings from the Blues Archive’s audio, visual, and print collections. From original record contracts for Elmore James and Sonny Boy Williamson, rare sound recordings by Robert Johnson and Charlie Patton, artwork by Lightnin’ Hopkins and James “Son” Thomas, and records from B. B. King’s personal record collection, this exhibition is sure to have something for everyone.

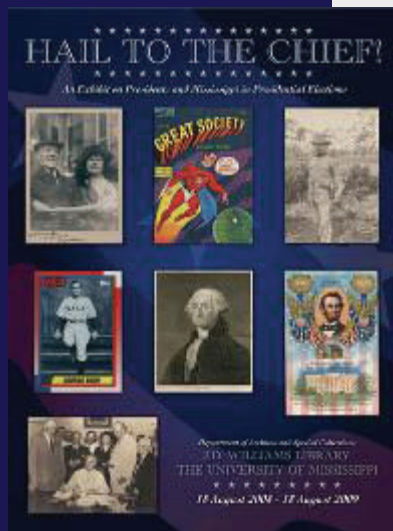
Visitors to the exhibit will be able to hear musical selections and view interviews through portable audio/video players distributed at the reference desk in Special Collections. A grand opening of the exhibition took place on September 22, 2009.



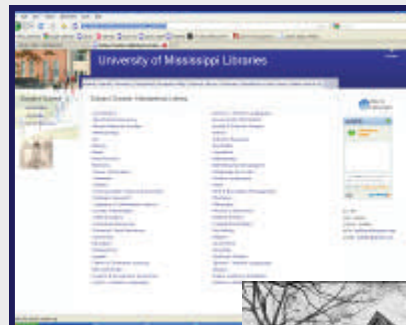


## Featured Online Exhibit

## Subject Guides Now Available



Created to coincide with the 2008 presidential debate at the University of Mississippi, "Hail to the Chief!: An Exhibit on Presidents & Mississippi in Presidential Elections" is now online at [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/hail\\_to\\_the\\_chief/](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/hail_to_the_chief/). Many of the letters and publications featured are available in full-text.



## Accessing Photographs in Visual Collections



The [Visual Collections](#) unit contains maps, framed items, posters, photographs (from tintypes to "born digital" images), and film collections ranging from 8mm to DVDs. Patrons require materials for personal display, research, publication, and educational instruction. Depending upon the request, the archives will charge for both usage and duplication. To request material, such as an image, patrons should complete a request form and submit it to the Curator of Visual Collections. If the curator can fulfill the request, patrons must complete a User Agreement form and submit full payment. Additional information relating to charges and forms appears on our website under [Policies & Forms](#). The archives accepts payment via personal and business checks mailed directly to the department, or by credit card over the phone or in person.

Photograph Collections are divided in the following manner: [University Archives Photographs](#) (images pertaining to the University of Mississippi), [General Photographs](#)

(images will no other related material), [Collection Photographs](#) (images originating from other collections), [Modern Political Archive Photographs](#) (photographs from MPA collections), [Southern Media Archive Photographs](#) (images collected by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture such as the Cofield Collection.)

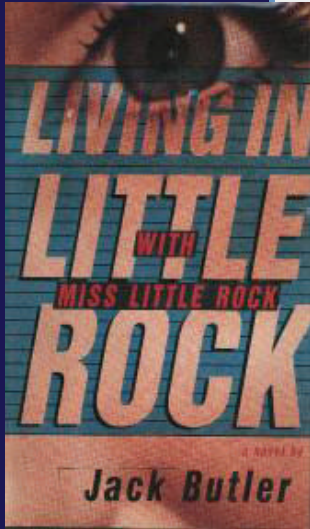
Patrons can use photographs in visual collections during our regular hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, except during selected school holidays. Black binders containing copies of our photographs are stored in the department's reading room for patrons to easily access the collections. Should a patron request to see an original image, the archive requires two days notice as these items are housed in an off-site facility.

For further information, please contact Pamela Williamson, Curator of Visual Collections, at 662.915.5851 or [pmw@olemiss.edu](mailto:pmw@olemiss.edu)

UA: [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives\\_subject\\_guide/photographs/university\\_archive](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives_subject_guide/photographs/university_archive)  
 GP: [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives\\_subject\\_guide/photographs/general](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives_subject_guide/photographs/general)  
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 SMA: [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\\_library/archives/visual/sma.html](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/archives/visual/sma.html)



## Jack Butler Collection opens



*The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* describes Jack Butler as, “a poet and novelist known for structurally experimental writing, usually dealing with the development of a religious self-awareness transcending orthodox views.” The son of a Baptist minister, Jack Butler was born in 1944 and moved to Mississippi as a child. He graduated from Clinton High School, then earned bachelor’s degrees in English and mathematics from Central Missouri State College, followed by an M.F.A. in creative writing from the Univer-

sity of Arkansas. Butler has published eight books, including four novels that have appeared in sixteen editions, including one translation in Japanese. He has written nearly 200 poems, many of which have appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *Poetry*. In 1997, Algonquin published his cookbook *Jack’s Skillet: Plain Talk and Some Recipes from a Guy in the Kitchen*. Butler has won a number of prizes and awards, and his third novel, *Living in Little Rock with Miss Little Rock* (Knopf, 1993) was nomi-

nated for a Pulitzer Prize and a PEN/Faulkner Award. The [Jack Butler Collection](#) includes correspondence, reviews, speeches, honors, manuscripts, publications, exams, papers, journals, notes, audio and photographs related to Jack Butler’s life and career. Open to the public, the finding aid is available online.

For more information about our manuscript collections please contact Jennifer Ford, Head of Archives & Special Collections at 662.915.7408 or [jwford@olemiss.edu](mailto:jwford@olemiss.edu)

Jack Butler Collection:  
<http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM01703/>

“The National Archive manages the care and access to those historic records that remain the legal property of the House and Senate.”

## Congressional Collections...Not Just for Political Historians!

Consider the pervasiveness of the federal government throughout society. Laws and regulations dictate everything from food purity to duck hunting on the Mississippi flyway. Federal dollars pay for scientific research, rural electrification, and flood control projects. Investigations examine business malfeasance, sports monopolies, and insurgent threats. Diplomatic endeavors negotiate everything from trade agreements to cultural exchanges, until of course the military follows orders to pursue military intervention or war.

As a branch of the federal government,

Congress plays an essential role in all of these functions by exercising its legislative, oversight, and appropriations responsibilities. As a result, the collections of members of Congress embrace a wide array of subjects. In addition to this broad topical scope, congressional collections also offer scholars the chance to focus their research on a local, state, national, or even international scale.

As public officials representing a state or even a particular district within that state, members of Congress maintain files on specific communities and coun-

# Congressional Collections continued...



ties as a means of tracking grant proposals and local entanglements with bureaucratic red tape. Campaign managers also create local files for each election. These records offer local historians information on an area's airports, education, agriculture, flood control, highways and roads, health care, civil rights, cultural and historical resources, and sewage and water systems to name just a few of the potential subjects.

Until the Nixon administration, members of Congress typically handled patronage appointments for postmaster positions; thus, patronage files often document a community's political networks. Post Office files may also contain detailed population and commercial assessments of the small, rarely studied communities as the Post Office Department attempted to close local branches and consolidate routes. On the state level, congressional collections include correspondence

from governors, attorney generals, legislators, highway commissioners, and veteran affairs commissioners. As with local communities, files may also concentrate on state institutions, organizations, and projects. The papers of U.S. Senator [James O. Eastland](#), for example, contain folders on World War II prisoner of war camps in Mississippi, the Mississippi Opera Association, and the Mississippi Crop & Livestock Reporting Service. Naturally, topics of both state and national interest appear in correspondence with congressional colleagues, the White House and federal agencies. Members of Congress also maintain files tracking the evolution of a legislative bill as well as committee work involving hearings and investigations.

For grassroots opinions on various subjects, researchers should examine files of issue correspondence. In these letters, writers express their views on any and every subject from UFOs and agricultural subsidies to communism and taxes. Although many of these correspondents are constituents of the specific member's state or district, frequently citizens from across the country and the world will write to condemn or praise a legislator's stance on a specific topic.

Finally, congressional collections may contain relevant information on other countries and international organizations. The [John Sharp Williams Collection](#), for instance, includes material related to Armenian atrocities committed during World War I, a particular interest of the senator's. As an ally of President Woodrow Wilson, his papers also document Senate battles over the League of Nations.

The enormous scope of congressional collections may also make them intimidating and difficult to use. It is wise for researchers to consult the curator for suggestions in navigating the complex arrangements and vast size that many congressional papers boast. A brief description of [congressional collections](#) at the University of Mississippi is available online. Links off this page will direct viewers to specific collection finding aids.

For assistance and advice, please contact Political Papers Archivist Leigh McWhite at 662.915.1850 or [slmcwhit@olemiss.edu](mailto:slmcwhit@olemiss.edu)

James O. Eastland: <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00117/>  
 John Sharp Williams: <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00480/>  
 Congressional Collections: [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives\\_subject\\_guide/polgove/congressional](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives_subject_guide/polgove/congressional)

election. We, People of election.

"Except for official committee records, all materials generated by a member of Congress or their staff during the course of their duties remain the private property of the member. Preserved collections are geographically dispersed in archival repositories across the country."

RECORDS

HOW TO REGISTER

There are about 100 registers registered, and 100 writers in service.

James O. Eastland Collection



## Foray Into Our Digital Realm

The Internet allows archives to make known their often-obscure holdings and facilitates research beyond our refined reading rooms to a patron's home computer. Breaking primary materials free from purely staid scholarly pursuits and the necessary shackles of closed stacks, contemporary technologies democratize archival research. Offering online access to our materials disseminates knowledge of our holdings while encouraging use by groups historically shrugged by archives: undergraduates and casual web surfers. Collection uniqueness and eccentricities draw patrons to archives. Though these idiosyncrasies fuel research and fascination, their very nature complicates a repository's ability to make their material accessible to the general public. Further obstacles to tracking down and using collections include the lack of a true union catalog [database of (inter)national library holdings] of archival materials; uneven and unfamiliar processing standards; and the breadth of formats, subjects and scopes. Finding aids offer a peek into our holdings. Through introductory notes, finding aids contextualize collections for use by those without in-depth subject knowledge while folder listings detail a collection's contents. The [League of Women Voters Collection](http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00261/) is an example of the way that contextual notes aid research. Further, the [Sheldon Harris Collection](http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00682/) exemplifies current practices of providing extensive subject terms and formats. These elements better allow search engines to locate finding aids and increase

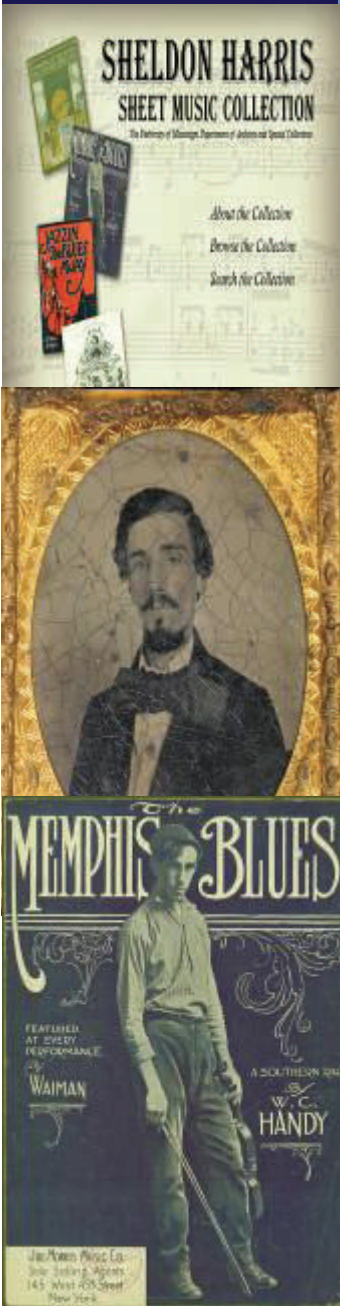
usability significantly for the patron by detailing the topics and ways that these materials fit into a wider framework of research and culture.

[Digital collections](#) offer instant gratification compared to the glimpse of knowledge proffered by finding aids; these collections aid patrons by providing primary materials direct to their computer. In the coming months, richer introductory material and a new interface and layout will enhance the usability of these digital collections.

### The Present

At the moment, the Archives and Special Collections have three collections portraying 19<sup>th</sup>-century Mississippi history. The [Roxana Chapin Gerдинe Collection](#) details the life of a woman born into a Massachusetts abolitionist family who marries the owner of a West Point, Mississippi plantation. The [John Guy Lofton Collection](#) presents letters written from Lofton to his wife of his experiences in the Civil War; Lofton served in the University Grays, 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiment, and was mortally wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines. Finally, the [Elijah Fleming Collection](#) portrays tintypes of antebellum UM students, some of whom joined the University Grays.

Also available through our Digital Collections page is the [Sheldon Harris Sheet Music Collection](#). Composed of minstrel songs, this collection grants insight into late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century southern culture. Particularly notable in these minstrel songs are portrayals of African Americans and a romanticized South.



League of Women Voters: <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00261/>  
 Sheldon Harris Collection: <http://purl.oclc.org/umarchives/MUM00682/>  
 Digital Collections: <http://130.74.92.141/>

William Faulkner Subject Guide: [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives\\_subject\\_guide/william\\_faulkner](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/archives_subject_guide/william_faulkner)

## Digital Realm continued...

### The Future

New digital projects are underway and coming soon. The Alan Lomax Audio Archive will document the blues through interviews and performances on approximately 800 audio and video streams. Copyright restrictions will limit access of the streaming media to J.D. Williams Library computers; however the descriptive metadata will be unrestricted.

The Kenneth Goldstein Broadside, a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century broadsheet songs and verse, provides unique insight into British and Irish culture and identity. Topics in

this collection range from drinking and love songs to the Napoleonic Wars, Irish home rule and British patriotism. Access to this collection will begin December 2009.

Work has begun for a new digital archive documenting the University of Mississippi's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, particularly the 1962 integration of the University of Mississippi. Initially the project will highlight photographs from the Mississippi Highway Patrol and the W. Wert Cooper photograph collections as well as the Open Doors oral history videos.

Watch our site for new finding aids, digital collections and subject guides, notably the recent completion of online finding aids for all of the William Faulkner collections and our new [William Faulkner Subject Guide](#).

For questions about our finding aids and digital projects, please contact Jason Kovari, Special Collections Digital Initiatives Librarian, at 662.915.2024 or [jakovari@olemiss.edu](mailto:jakovari@olemiss.edu)

## Hilton Waits Collection Opens

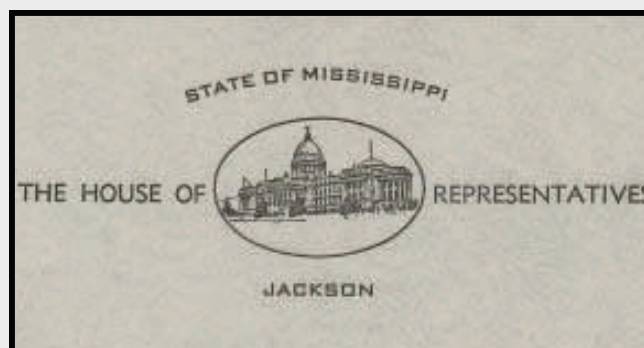
The Modern Political Archive has recently completed work on the [Hilton Waits Collection](#) and posted its finding aid online. Waits was born in Mantachie, Mississippi, on 18 May 1898. He was a member of the Mississippi State Legislature from 1931-1960, and for a few months in 1964. He chaired the Ways and Means Committee from 1944 to 1960 and was a major force in writing much of the state's tax law. He passed away on 7 May 1964. Waits obtained a BA, MA, and JD from the University of Mississippi and his master's thesis on tax law is also in Special Collections.

The Hilton Waits Collection includes documentation of

his political career as well as his extensive legal practice in Washington County, particularly his work with the Washington County Board of Supervisors and various school boards within the district. It contains political correspondence, documents, publications, photographs, ledgers, financial records, plantation records, law firm files, and personal correspondence.

The Waits Collection would be useful for any researchers interested in the history of Mississippi during the mid-twentieth century, particularly in the areas of tax law, county and city governance, legal practice, and public schools.

Ellie Campbell  
Former Senior Library Assistant in Modern Political Archives



**“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”**

2009–2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Mark Your Calendars**

## Schedule of Events

- } December 23rd thru January 3rd– Archives and Special Collections will be closed
- } February 1st– Sarah Isom Center Brown Bag, "A Worn Path" by Eudora Welty performed by Rebecca Jernigan. Noon, Faulkner Room, J. D. Williams Library
- } February 10th– "Archival Endeavors: The Department of Archives & Special Collections, University of Mississippi." Panel will include Jennifer Ford, Greg Johnson, Leigh McWhite, and Pamela Williamson. Noon, Tupelo Room, Barnard Observatory
- } March 4th– Conference for the Book presenter Nicolas Basbanes will speak on the history of the book. 11:30am, Faulkner Room, J. D. Williams Library



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For more information, please [Contact Us](#)



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