

2004 SOUTHERN FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM

Southern Food in
BLACK & WHITE



**OCTOBER
7-10**

SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi at Oxford

WITH A

DELTA
DIVERTISSEMENT

OCTOBER 6-7

In and around
Greenwood, MS

Southern Food in **BLACK & WHITE**



The seventh annual Southern Foodways Symposium will be held October 7-10, 2004, on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford. This year we explore race through the lens of foodways. We will study, debate, and celebrate the South's shared food culture by way of events that focus upon race relations. The SFA believes that racial chasms can be bridged when we recognize our common humanity across a table piled high with bowls of collard greens, platters of cornbread. We believe that food is our region's greatest shared creation. And we see food as a unifier in a diverse region, as a means by which we may address the issues that have long vexed our homeland.

As with previous symposia, this event provides opportunities for cooks, chefs, food writers, and inquisitive eaters to come to a better understanding of Southern cuisine and Southern culture. Lectures, held in Johnson Commons, at the heart of the University of Mississippi campus, are complemented by informal lunches and dinners served in and around Oxford.

In keeping with our tradition of offering attendees practical instruction in the collection and dissemination of oral histories, Rachel Lawson will share her work with veterans of the Nashville Sit-in Movement. This class, staged on Thursday prior to the official opening of the symposium, will be free of charge to the first twenty registrants.

This year we screen two SFA-produced films, underwritten by the Fertel Foundation and directed by Joe York. The first, *On Flavor*, tells the story of Ed Scott, the first African American catfish farmer in the Mississippi Delta. The second, a tribute to the women who fed the Civil Rights Movement, highlights Martha Hawkins of Montgomery, Alabama, a modern-day steward of the Welcome Table.

Music continues to be integral to our gatherings. Olu Dara, a native of Mississippi, will lead his Natchezissippi Dance Band in a Saturday afternoon concert that pays homage to Southern icons like prickly okra and juicy strawberries, not to mention fabled writers like Zora Neal Hurston.

And then there's the food. Among the highlights will be sandwiches of Coca-Cola brisket, made with pastured beef; Mississippi catfish, sheathed in a cornmeal mantle; whole hog

barbecue, cooked by a North Carolina master; light-as-a-feather biscuits from Knoxville; tender-as-a-mother's love grillades from New Orleans; and a quartet of fried chickens, cooked by exemplars of the frying art.

Keep in mind: The Delta Divertissement is back. Over the course of a twenty-four-hour sojourn to the town of Greenwood, Mississippi, this quick-to-sell-out prequel to the symposium offers an opportunity to explore the land that gave birth to heroes of the Civil Rights Movement like Fannie Lou Hamer. What's more, we'll talk tamales, hear tales of rabbit hunting in canebrakes, dance to downhome blues, and savor what happens when a James Beard Award-winning chef – and Mississippi native – Ann Cashion sets her mind to feeding her kinsmen and kinswomen.

Host for the event is the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Contributors to our efforts include Biltmore Estate Wine Company, Bottletree Bakery, City Grocery, the R&B Feder Charitable Foundation for the Beaux Arts, Grassroots Wine, Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Oxford Tourism Council, and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.

In honor of our new sponsor, Burt's Beef, the SFA will now endeavor to serve pasture-raised beef, poultry, and pork.

Primary sponsors of the Southern Foodways Symposium are:

Burt's Beef

The Fertel Foundation

Glory Foods

Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey

Viking Range

White Lily

On the cover: Art by Amy Evans of Oxford, Mississippi

SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Paul B. Johnson Commons.

THURSDAY

- 2-4 p.m. **Registration**
Barnard Observatory
- 2-4 p.m. **Lunch Counter Oral Histories**
Barnard Observatory
Rachel Lawson
- 5:30 p.m. **Thacker Mountain Radio Show**
Off Square Books
- 7 p.m. **Whole Hog Feed and *Cornbread Nation 2* Release Party**
Powerhouse Arts Center
Ed Mitchell and Lolis Eric Elie
- 9 p.m. ***On Flavor*, a Film about Ed Scott, Winner of 2001 Ruth Fertel Keeper of the Flame Award**
Powerhouse Arts Center
Joe York

FRIDAY

- 9-10 a.m. **Registration**
- 10 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction of Glory Foods Scholarship Winners**
Charles Reagan Wilson
- 10:15 a.m. **Invocation**
William Winter
- 10:30 a.m. **Homily**
Will D. Campbell
- 11 a.m. **A Culture of Possibilities Revisited**
Dori Sanders
- 11:45 a.m. **Burt's Beef Tribute to the Unsung Cooks of Ole Miss**
Coca-Cola brisket
The Grove
John Currence
- 1:15 p.m. **A Harry Golden Moment**
Tom Hanchett
- 1:30 p.m. **Back of the House: An Appreciation**
Diane McWhorter
- 2:30 p.m. **2004 Ruth Fertel Keeper of the Flame Award and Film Screening**
Martha Hawkins
- 3:45 p.m. **Beloved Community: The Civil Rights Movement and Food**
Bernard Lafayette
- 6 p.m. **Deviled Yard Egg Degustation and Book Signing**
Off Square Books
- 7:30 p.m. **Catfish Fry**
Taylor Grocery
Lynn Hewlett
- 9 p.m. **Street Dance**

SATURDAY

- 9 a.m. **Feast of Words**
Beth Ann Fennelly
- 9:15 a.m. **A Conversation with Olu Dara**
- 10 a.m. **Mammy and Ole Miss: Domestic Relations**
Trudier Harris, Susan Tucker, and Donna Pierce
- 11:15 a.m. **SFA General Meeting**
- 12:15 p.m. **Viking Range Luncheon**
The Quadrangle
Ann Cashion
- 1:45 p.m. **Edible Icons in Black (and White)**
Possum 'n' Taters — Where have you gone?
Adrian Miller
How Did Macaroni and Cheese Get So Black?
Rafia Zafar
The Sacred and the Profane: Late Night Chitlins With Momma
Audrey Petty
- 4 p.m. **Smithsonian Key Ingredients Exhibit (Optional)**
Powerhouse Arts Center
- Methods and Ethnographics of Watermelon Pickles**
Fritz Blank
- 5 p.m. **Jack Daniel Lifetime Achievement Award**
Introductions by Leah Chase and Charles Reagan Wilson
Powerhouse Arts Center
- 5:30 p.m. **Olu Dara and the Natchezsiippi Dance Band**
Powerhouse Arts Center
- 7 p.m. **Fried Chicken Throw Down**
Gary Pasture
- Mama Dip (NC)
- Austin Leslie (LA)
- Scott Peacock (GA)
- Martha Stamps (TN)
- Sarah Labensky and Students from the Culinary Arts Institute at the Mississippi University for Women**
- Music by Guelel Kumba and Slade Lewis**

SUNDAY

- 9 a.m. **White Lily Biscuits, Grits, and Grillades Brunch**
City Grocery
John Currence
- 10:30 a.m. **Founder's Toast and Altar Call**
Lafayette County Courthouse
- 11:45 a.m. **Where Is Little Willie John When You Really Need Him?**
Lafayette County Courthouse
Nikki Giovanni
- Gospel Benediction**
Lafayette County Courthouse
The Jones Sisters

SPEAKERS

Fritz Blank has degrees in dairy husbandry, dairy science, medical technology, and clinical microbiology. He is the chef-owner of Deux Cheminées in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Will Campbell, a native of Amite County, Mississippi, is a preacher, author, and activist. Among his books is *Brother to a Dragonfly*.

Ann Cashion, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, is the chef and coowner of Cashion's Eat Place in Washington, D.C. The James Beard Foundation named her best chef in the Mid-Atlantic region for 2004.

Leah Chase is the chef of Dooky Chase in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was the first president of SFA and received SFA's 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award. She is the author of *And Still I Cook*.

Mildred Council, known to her many admirers as Mama Dip, is proprietor of — you guessed it — Mama Dip's in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is the author of *Mama Dip's Kitchen*.

The Culinary Arts Institute at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus is directed by Sarah Labensky. The institute offers a four-year baccalaureate degree in culinary arts. Students prepare for employment in diverse areas of food studies, such as food journalism, food arts, wellness, and entrepreneurship.

John Currence, the chef-owner of City Grocery in Oxford, Mississippi, is the backbone of the symposium. Nearly every morsel of food that lands on a plate will emerge from his kitchen.

Olu Dara, a native of Mississippi, is a veteran of the loft jazz scene in New York. His album, *In the World from Natchez to New York*, is the official 2004 soundtrack of the SFA.

Lolis Eric Elie is a columnist for the *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans. An SFA founding member, he is also the editor of *Cornbread Nation 2: The United States of Barbecue*.

Beth Ann Fennelly is an assistant professor of English at the University of Mississippi. Her newest book of poetry is *Tender Hooks*.

Nikki Giovanni, a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, is University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech. Her most recent volume of poetry is *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*.

Tom Hanchett, historian at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the author of *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875 - 1975*

Trudier Harris is a professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is coeditor of the *Oxford Companion to African American Literature* and author of the memoir *Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South*.

Martha Hawkins is the 2004 recipient of the SFA's Ruth Fertel Keeper of the Flame Award. She is the cook and owner of Martha's Place in Montgomery, Alabama and the founder of Martha Hawkins Ministries.

Lynn Hewlett, a native of Taylor, Mississippi, is a champion barbecue pitmaster who owns and operates one of the South's most fabled catfish houses, Taylor Grocery.

The Jones Sisters are a gospel ensemble from Lafayette County, Mississippi. Their first album is titled *Life's Not Easy: The Jones Sisters at Sun Studios*.

Guelel Kumba, a native of Senegal, and **Slade Lewis**, a native of Mississippi, are fixtures of the Oxford music scene who gig with the likes of Afrissippi and Wiley and the Checkmates.

Bernard Lafayette is an ordained minister who earned his EdD from Harvard University. He was a cofounder of SNCC and a leader of the Nashville sit-ins.

Rachel Lawson works for the Nashville Public Library. In concert with SFA, she has been compiling oral histories of the Nashville sit-in moment.

Austin Leslie is the fry cook at Jacques-Imo's, a New Orleans restaurant owned by Jacques Leonardi. Featured in the seminal book *Creole Feast*, Leslie is one of the grand men of the Southern restaurant scene.

Adrian Miller, former special assistant to President Clinton and deputy director of the President's Initiative for One America, is director of outreach for the Bell Policy Center in Denver, Colorado. He serves on the SFA board and is the programming chair.

Ed Mitchell of Wilson, North Carolina, is proprietor of Mitchell's Ribs, Chicken, and BBQ. Check out the profile of him by Peter Kaminsky in *Cornbread Nation 2*.

Diane McWhorter is the author of the Pulitzer Prize winning history *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*.

Scott Peacock is the chef at Watershed in Decatur, Georgia. Along with his mentor, Edna Lewis, he is the author of *The Gift of Southern Cooking*.

Audrey Petty is an assistant professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is at work on *All the Underneath*, her first novel.

Donna Pierce is a Chicago-based journalist at work on a book on African American culinary contributions.

Dori Sanders of York County, South Carolina, is a farmer and writer. Her novel *Clover* won the Lillian Smith Book Award for "elucidating the condition of racial and social inequity and proposing a vision of justice and human understanding."

Martha Stamps is the chef of Martha's at the Plantation in Nashville, Tennessee. She is the author of *Martha's at the Plantation: Seasonal Recipes from Belle Meade*.

Susan Tucker teaches at Tulane in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is the author of *Telling Memories among Southern Women*.

Charles Reagan Wilson is the director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. He is coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*.

William Winter, a Governor of Mississippi, is the spirit behind the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi.

Joe York is SFA's resident filmmaker. His first film, *Saving Seeds*, was a finalist for the Golden Snail Award at the Slow Food on Film Competition in Bra, Italy.

Rafia Zafar is the chair of African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is the author of *We Wear the Mask: African Americans Write American Literature, 1760-1870*.

DELTA DIVERTISSEMENT

TO BE HELD

OCTOBER 6-7

CELEBRATING THE DELTA WELCOME TABLE

Join the SFA for our second Delta Divertissement. This overnight trip to Greenwood, Mississippi, highlights Delta food in black and white. Join us at the Welcome Table. Pay homage to possibilities of food as a facilitator of racial reconciliation. Take your measure of how far we have come. Ponder how far we have yet to go.

We will do more than explore the landscape and ponder big ideas. On day one, we stage a dinner and cooking demonstration. Join Ann Cashion, the Mississippi-born, James Beard Award-winning chef at Cashion's Eat Place in Washington, D.C., for a fresh look at Delta eats. But that's just the beginning. Of course, we'll hear a bit of live blues. And gospel too. Sign up early. Only thirty-five spots are available, and they will go fast.

Delta Rates and Registration

Registration is limited to thirty-five people and will sell out very quickly. Cost for the trip is \$165, \$145 for SFA members. Please see the primary registration form. Registrants for the symposium receive preferential status. Rooms at the Alluvian require a separate registration, are priced at a discounted rate of \$135, and may be reserved by dialing 866-600-5201 and asking for the special SFA rate. In the event that the Alluvian sells out before you get a chance to book a room, try the Greenwood Best Western 662-455-5777.

DELTA DIVERTISSEMENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

Drive to Greenwood

(2 hours from Memphis, 1½ hours from Oxford)

- 2 p.m. **Tour Viking Range Corporation's Manufacturing Facilities**
Watch a stove being built from the ground up.
- 4 p.m. **The Delta Welcome Table**
Sample tamales from Giardina's of Greenwood and Doe's Eat Place of Greenville. Learn, from Mississippi Senator David Jordan, about a waiter named Booker Wright, who catalyzed the Movement.
- 5:30 p.m. **Dinner in the Delta**
Join Ann Cashion, a native of Mississippi — who named her Washington D.C. restaurant in tribute to a Delta haunt, Doe's Eat Place — for a virtual tour of Mississippi eats. Learn technique from a James Beard Award-winning chef. Learn how Mississippi eats translate to a white tablecloth. Eat your fill.
- 8 p.m. **Shake a Leg and See a Flick at Club Ebony,**
B.B. King's hometown juke in Indianola. View Joe York's film, *On Flavor*, about catfish framer Ed Scott. Lend an ear to David Durham and the Ladies Choice Band. Expect downhome blues. Enjoy libations. Listen to David tell tales of rabbit hunting.

OVERNIGHT AT THE ALLUVIAN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2003

- 8 a.m. **Sausage and Biscuit and Cane Syrup Breakfast**
Come home to Mattie's Café for biscuits, hand-patted sausage, and syrup pressed from ribbon cane. Invocation by Reverend McArthur McKinley of Little Zion M. B. Church. And to get you going, a little music by Duff Dorrough and friends.
- 9 a.m. **Delta Tour in Black And White**
Follow scholars Luther Brown and Lynn Linnemeier as we explore the Delta. We'll learn the history of this fabled land — from the power of the mighty river that shaped the land, to the origins of the blues, to the struggle for civil rights. Among the stops will be Drew, where local folks are working to make the ideal of the Beloved Community a reality; and Ruleville, hometown of Fannie Lou Hamer. We'll pay homage to Hamer in typical SFA fashion: In tribute to her efforts to establish a pig-breeding program for destitute Deltans, we'll pace a papier-mâché pig on her gravestone.
- 12 p.m. **Soul of Southern Cooking Lunch** in Drew with Kathy Starr and Martha Foose. Gospel by the Holly Grove M. B. Church Choir. We will pay homage to Kathy Starr's grandmother, Miz Bob, and savor the best sweet potato pie to ever cross a palate.
- 1:30 p.m. **Bus to Greenwood**
- 2:30 p.m. **Depart for Oxford** (1½ hours)

DELTA PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KNOW

The Alluvian is a luxury boutique hotel in Greenwood, Mississippi, set within walking distance of the Yazoo River and historic Cotton Row. Original art by Delta artists and a lively lobby scene make the Alluvian the epicenter of contemporary Delta culture.

Luther Brown is the founding director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Ann Cashion, a native of Jackson, is the chef and coowner of Cashion's Eat Place in Washington, D.C. and the coowner of Johnny's Half Shell, also in D.C. In 2004, the James Beard Foundation named her the best chef in the Mid-Atlantic.

David Durham and the Ladies Choice Band bring down the house every Sunday night at Club Ebony. Recently, the Mississippi Blues Society named him Bluesman of the Year.

Duff Dorrough of Ruleville, Mississippi, is a painter and musician. He now leads Duff and the Revelators. His latest album is *Peace in the Lily of the Valley*.

Martha Foose, a native of Pluto Plantation in Holmes County, is director of the Viking Range Cooking School. She and her husband, Donald, operate the Mockingbird Bakery in Greenwood.

Giardina's, in business since 1936, is a local favorite for Italian-inflected Delta dishes like broiled Gulf pompano, hot tamales, and peerless onion rings.

Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Drew is led by Reverend Jesse Gresham. His congregation established the Holly Grove Community Development Corporation to restore an historic Rosenwald school.

Senator David Jordan, a native of Greenwood, represents the Holmes, Leflore, and Tallahatchie Counties in the Mississippi senate. He is president of the Greenwood Voter's League.

Lynn Linnemier, a graduate student in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, is an accomplished artist. Her academic work focuses upon African Americans as depicted in stereographic photography.

Reverend McArthur McKinley preaches to the congregation at Little Zion M. B. Church, where the choir shakes the walls every first and third Sunday.

Mattie Smith, a native of Minter City, Mississippi, is proprietor of Mattie's Cafe in Greenwood. Her fried chicken is legendary, and so are her biscuits.

Kathy Starr, a native of Hollandale, Mississippi, is the author of *The Soul of Southern Cooking*. She is one of the fifty founders of the SFA.

OXFORD PARTICULARS

LODGING

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Downtown Inn, 234-3031, located just off the Oxford Square, and at the Alumni House 234-2331, on the University of Mississippi campus. The area code for all calls is 662. Other accommodations include:

Comfort Inn: 234-6000
Days Inn: 234-9500
Fox Hill: 234-1922
Hampton Inn: 232-2442
Holiday Inn Express: 236-2500
Johnson's Motor Inn: 234-3611
Ole Miss Motel: 234-2424
Oliver-Britt House: 234-8043
Puddin' Place: 234-1250
Ramada Inn: 234-7013
Tree House: 513-6354

TRANSPORTATION

Persons who fly to the symposium should book their flights to and from Memphis (Tennessee) International Airport. Rental cars from all the major companies are available at the airport. SFA will post a ride-share board on our website for attendees who wish to coordinate travel to Oxford. Members interested in this service should contact sfamail@olemiss.edu by September 15 with the following information:

- Have a car, will share a ride from the airport
 - Need a ride, willing to share rental car costs
- Arrival date/time: _____ Airline/Flight Number _____
Return date/time: _____ Airline/Flight Number _____

All travel and contact information will be posted online September 25, and attendees may contact one another to arrange rideshares.



SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

The mission of the Southern Foodways Alliance is to celebrate, preserve, and promote the diverse food cultures of the American South. Enrollment is open to anyone, and members receive a 10 percent reduction in symposium registration fees as well as other benefits.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the symposium includes all lectures, scheduled meals, and entertainment. Registration for the Delta Divertissement is separate. Those planning to attend the symposium are advised to register early in order to secure a space, as the symposium sells out very quickly. Mary Beth Lasseter will administer registration. No phone or e-mail registrations will be accepted. Mary Beth may be reached at sfamail@olemiss.edu. SFA Director John T Edge may be reached at johnt@olemiss.edu. Registration opens on July 10. No registration is confirmed until you have received e-mail or written notification from Mary Beth. Individual registrations will be confirmed the week of August 23. No refunds will be processed after September 1.

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP TO PRECEDE SYMPOSIUM

For the past year, in concert with the Southern Foodways Alliance, Rachel Lawson has been working to uncover how food served as both symbol and sustenance in the Sit-In Movement. In keeping with our tradition of offering attendees practical instruction in the collection and dissemination of oral histories, she will share her work with a small group of symposiasts. This class, staged on Thursday prior to the official opening of the symposium, will be free of charge to the first twenty registrants. Though there is no additional fee for this session, seating is limited to twenty persons, first come first served. Please check the appropriate box below and we will confirm your participation.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

- I would like to attend the symposium at a reduced rate of \$340. I am a member of the SFA or would like to join for an additional \$25 (student), \$50 (individual), \$75 (family), \$200 (nonprofit), or \$500 (corporate) for a one-year membership. (Circle one)
 - Yes, I would like to register for the Oral History Workshop to precede the symposium.
 - I would like to attend the symposium at the regular rate of \$380.
 - I would like to attend the Delta Divertissement at the SFA rate of \$145.
 - I would like to attend the Delta Divertissement at the regular rate of \$165.
 - I cannot attend the symposium, but would like to join the Southern Foodways Alliance as a student, individual, family, non-profit, or corporate member (circle one). Rates are listed above.
 - I am interested in having my name posted on the rider board. I will e-mail my travel plans to sfamail@olemiss.edu by September 15.
- Check enclosed, made payable to the Southern Foodways Alliance
 - Charge to: _____ Visa _____ Master Card
- _____
- Account Number
- _____
- Expiration Date
- _____
- Signature of Cardholder

**RETURN FORM TO SOUTHERN FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM,
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE, P.O. BOX
1848, UNIVERSITY, MS 38677 OR FAX TO 662-915-5814.**

The University of Mississippi



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