

4

International
conference to explore
global Ireland

6

VABook! 2003
announces luncheon
speaker Lee Smith

8

Documenting
Virginia's rural
maritime heritage

10

African American Heritage
Resources expand and
excite across Virginia

vfh **Views**

The Newsletter of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities | Fall 2002

Folklife's Back!

BY JON LOHMAN

The Virginia Folklife Program celebrated Virginia's first-ever Folklife Apprenticeship Program with an Opening Exhibition at the VFH Conference Center on September 14th. Folklife Apprenticeships pair an experienced *master artist* with an eager *apprentice* for a one-on-one, nine-month learning experience to help ensure that a particular art form is passed on in ways that are conscious of history and faithful to tradition.

The apprenticeships were open to applicants in all forms of Virginia's traditional, expressive culture—from decoy carving to fiddle making, from crab-trap building to quilt stitching, from apple butter making to old-time banjo playing. The Folklife Apprenticeship

Program will help ensure that Virginia's treasured folkways not only continue, but also receive new life and vibrancy by engaging new learners and reinvigorating master practitioners.

The Opening Exhibition introduced a public audience to a wide variety of master artists and apprentices, practicing a diverse range of traditional folkways, from points all across the state. Guests were able to admire the draft horse harnesses of **C. Marshall Cofer** and the intricately decorated decoys of Eastern Shore resident **Grayson**

Chesser, introduced as the "Michael Jordan of decoy carvers."

Guests were also treated to a wide range of musical performances. **Kinney Rorrer**, one of the few remaining practitioners of the finger-style banjo popularized by his ancestor, Charlie Poole, performed with his gifted young apprentice, Jeremy Stephens. **Flory Jagoda**, recently honored with a 2002 National Heritage Fellowship for life-long excellence in the folk and traditional arts, joined with her apprentice Susan Gaeta in singing several Sephardic Jewish ballads, sung in Ladino, a 15th century Spanish language that she has almost single-handedly kept from disappearing. And the **Paschall Brothers**, keeping alive the once-flourishing gospel quartet tradition of the Tidewater Region, nearly blew the canvas off the tent with their powerful a capella versions of "The Lord's Prayer," "You Better Run," and their emotional rendition of the national anthem.

Continued on page 2



Ladino Ballad Singer
Flory Jagoda



FALL 2002

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Folklife

Continued from cover

While many of the guests at the opening reception expected to see decoy carving or blacksmithing, they were likely surprised to see hot-rod cars and draft horses. This point was not lost on master hot-rod builder **John Rinehart**, who had the unenviable position of being introduced to the guests immediately following the Paschall

Brothers' scintillating performance. "It's hard to follow the Paschalls," Rinehart joked to the audience, "but, in many ways, car building is a kind of religion, too."

The Folklife Apprenticeship Program has also served to educate public audiences about the broad scope of aesthetic expressions that the Virginia Folklife

Program considers "folklife," and of the diverse range of peoples who have mastered them.

The Folklife Apprenticeship Program reaffirms the awareness of the need to pass on traditions from one knowledgeable person to the next, not in classrooms or lecture halls, but in their traditional contexts, face-to-face and

A Letter from the President

Fall is always a wonderful season in the life of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. In spite of severe drought, economic recession, threats of terrorism and war, we have reason for hope. This fall we welcome back the VFH newsletter, re-designed and edited by a talented team of new staff who bring new eyes and new perspectives to the humanities and our work. They reflect our optimism about the Foundation's future and our commitment to the humanities.

Our pace, like the air, has been brisk. One packed week in September featured five major events. Among them, the annual September meeting of the Virginia Festival of the Book Advisory Committee—followed by a "Fall Foreword" reception for writers, donors and volunteers—was the best yet.

Days before, the VFH inaugurated the first Folklife Apprenticeship Program in Virginia with an array of musicians, artists, and craftspeople and welcomed an equally diverse audience.

Also that week, the VFH Board held its fall meeting; Jon Lohman, Director of the Virginia Folklife Program, presented a new course on the history of the banjo; and in commemoration of 9/11, *With Good Reason* broadcast from the VFH studios a live 90-minute call-in feature on United States foreign policy and Iraq.

Though grounded in the past, the humanities have always been about the future, about understanding the past in order to confront issues in the present, about confronting the present in order to shape a desirable future. We hope this newsletter will help you keep abreast of our efforts this fall, and in seasons to come.

Rob Vaughan

President, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities



Unrestricted Giving: What's so important about that?

Unrestricted gifts to the Virginia Foundation allow us the flexibility to use these funds wherever the need is greatest. They also provide crucial support for our ongoing publications and programs. While restricted gifts permit the VFH to focus on specific projects, unrestricted gifts ensure that funds are available to react quickly to unexpected needs and opportunities.

How does an unrestricted gift help? Unrestricted Gifts to VFH...

...Bring authors, publishers, and panelists to the annual **Virginia Festival of the Book** by paying for authors' transportation and lodging.

...Purchase books in Spanish and English for **Motheread/Fatheread** training institutes.

...Help parents with low-level reading skills improve their reading abilities and share them with their children through **Motheread/Fatheread** training institutes and programs on family literacy.

...Safeguard the folk arts and traditions of Virginia through the **Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program**.

...Broadcast educational programs through **With Good Reason**, a weekly radio program aired on public stations throughout Virginia and in six neighboring states.

...Educate school children and adults about Virginia history through the **African American Heritage** grant program, database, and website.

...Bring visitors to the Commonwealth through the **African American Heritage Trail**, combining education and economic development through heritage tourism.

...Support internationally recognized programs, such as the Foundation's **Institute for Violence and Survival**.

Throughout its 27-year history, the VFH has responded to the educational needs of Virginians of all ages through programs on history, literature, literacy, religion, philosophy, and civic engagement. The VFH has helped to preserve the customs and traditions of Virginia through its grants to museums, libraries, schools, colleges and universities, and civic organizations. Through your gift to the Unrestricted Fund, the VFH will continue to meet these needs in the years ahead.

Feel Good About Filing Your State Income Taxes!

Designate all or part of your Virginia State Income Tax refund to support programs of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Please check your 2002 Virginia State Tax Packet for information on how you can donate your refund to the VFH.

Support book and literacy programs, teachers' institutes, history programs, folklife, fellowships, African American Heritage programs, Violence and Survival research, and other humanities programs through the VFH!

Four Leaders Join VFH Board

The VFH Board is delighted to welcome four distinguished teachers, scholars, and community leaders who joined the Board at its September meeting. Their experience and commitment to the humanities will enrich the VFH, as they have enriched our Commonwealth.

Michael J. Galgano heads the Department of History at James Madison University in Harrisonburg where he has taught since 1984. Dr. Galgano holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. In addition to teaching and administrative responsibilities, he is a prolific writer on topics ranging from Restoration England to the history of medicine, disease, and health, including *Encounters in World History* (American Heritage Custom Publishing Group, 1995). Michael and his wife Virginia have three married children (Robert, David, and Laura) and two granddaughters. Michael enjoys golf, classical music and literature, and travel.

Ronald L. Heinemann is Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney. Dr. Heinemann holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. His publications include *Harry Byrd of Virginia* (University Press of Virginia, 1996), *Depression and New Deal in Virginia: The Enduring Dominion* (University Press of Virginia, 1983), and numerous essays, articles, and papers. Ron is a former VFH Fellow and the recipient of innumerable awards for teaching, research, and writing. He and his wife Sandy recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have two children, Erica and David.

Anna Logan Lawson of Daleville holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Virginia. She is Chair of the Board of Hollins University, where she received her B.A. and M.A., and serves on the boards of Valley Bank, the Art Museum of Western Virginia, the Jamestown-Yorktown Educational Trust, and The Nature Conservancy, among other organizations. A former consultant with the National Park Service, Dr. Lawson also served as newsletter editor for the Kettering Foundation. In addition to the humanities and anthropology, Anna's interests include science, music, tennis, hiking, and almost all books. She and husband Thomas have two children, Towles and Frances Blair.

James D. Lott is Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of English at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton. Dr. Lott earned his B.A. from the University of Tennessee, M.A. from Vanderbilt University, and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He has published many works of fiction and received both the O. Henry Award and the Emrys Prize for Short Fiction. He serves on the boards of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace, the Historic Staunton Foundation, and Emmanuel Episcopal Church and in 1989 served on the VFH task force on "The Future of the Humanities." Jim and his wife Pamela have four children (David, Mary Evans, Emily, and William) and five grandchildren.



New directors (pictured from left to right) Michael J. Galgano, James D. Lott, Anna Logan Lawson, and Ronald L. Heinemann.

African American Heritage Resources Expand and Excite Across Virginia

In January 2000, in cooperation with the Virginia Tourism Corporation and with special funding provided by the Virginia General Assembly, the VFH established the African American Heritage Program—a multi-faceted, statewide effort that looks ahead to Virginia’s 400th anniversary in 2007. The Virginia Foundation has supported hundreds of educational programs on African American history and culture since 1974; but this new effort was designed to give greater focus to our work, and to combine public education and economic development—through heritage tourism—in a creative, systematic way. To date, components of the program include:

The African American Heritage Database

A comprehensive and continually expanding resource of biographical materials and information on significant African American historic sites. This database’s nearly 500 sites are fully searchable by geographic region, historical period, and type of site. Nominations are encouraged at: www.virginia.edu/aahv.

The African American Heritage Trails Program

A partnership between the VFH and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The Trails program is designed to encourage as many people as possible to visit Virginia’s African American historic sites. Drawn from the database, this component of the African American Heritage Program will generate a variety of publications and cooperative marketing efforts, including the first edition of *The Heritage and Culture of African Americans in Virginia: A Guide to the Sites*, published in February 2002.

The African American History in Virginia Grant Program

An effort to provide crucial financial support to organizations involved in the interpretation of Virginia’s African American heritage. Since March 2000, a total of 89 grants have been awarded in support of research, exhibits, publications, lectures, community forums and discussions, planning, and other activities. This special grant program will be offered again in 2003-2004. Applications are due February 1st each year.

Don’t Grieve After Me: The Black Experience in Virginia, 1619-2002

A 32-panel traveling exhibit that explores the history of African Americans in Virginia from a statewide perspective. Developed in cooperation with Hampton University Museum and with funding from the ExxonMobil Foundation, this exhibit is designed to encourage complementary public programming and to be used in a variety of settings—by schools, libraries, and museums and other nonprofit organizations. To borrow this exhibit, contact Amy Marshall at 434-924-6895.

Over the next several years, the Foundation anticipates adding many more sites to the database, continuing the grant and Heritage Trails programs, and maintaining statewide circulation of the *Don’t Grieve* exhibit. In addition, we are working to develop new SOL-related teacher education programs and oral history training workshops focusing on Virginia’s African American history.

Building the African American Heritage Program has been a collaborative effort involving many people and organizations throughout Virginia, but the success of this program to date has depended on the imagination, hard work, and communication skills of its first director, **Teresa Dowell-Vest**, who left the VFH on October 4th to start her own business venture. We wish Teresa the greatest success and look forward to building on the work she has begun.

Don’t Grieve After Me

2002-03 Exhibit Schedule

L. Douglas Wilder Library

Virginia Union University
Richmond, VA
October 11 - 25, 2002

Lynchburg Public Library

Sponsored by the Anne Spencer Foundation
Lynchburg, VA
November 4 - 27, 2002

Laurel Grove School

Springfield, VA
December 5 - January 6, 2003

Orange County Arts Center

Orange, VA
January 31 - February 17, 2003

Shiloh Baptist Church

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 20 - March 3, 2003

Library of Virginia

Richmond, VA
March 7 - 31, 2003

Randolph-Macon Woman’s College Library

Lynchburg, VA
April 2003

Courthouse Galleries

Portsmouth, VA
May 9 - June 29, 2003

Virginia Explorer Park

Roanoke, VA
July - August 2003

Patrick Henry Community College Library

Martinsville, VA
September 7 - 30, 2003

J. Sargeant Reynolds

Richmond, VA
October 2003

Senior Fellow Unveils Images of Enslavement

From the early 1500s to the late 1860s, between 11 and 12 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic to the New World, and approximately 10 million survived this “Middle Passage.” Recently, there has been a tremendous increase in both scholarly and popular interest in the lives of enslaved Africans and their descendants during the period of slavery.

VFH Senior Fellow **Jerome S. Handler** and **Michael Tuite**, Director of the University of Virginia’s Digital Media Lab, have spent the past several years creating a website that offers a visual record of the Atlantic slave trade and slave life in the Americas. Designed for use by teachers, researchers, students, and the public, it includes hundreds of images selected from a wide range of sources, depicting slave societies in all of the Americas—Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America, from the 17th through the late 19th century, as well as pre-colonial Africa at the time of the Atlantic slave trade.

Images have been gathered from libraries, museums, and archival repositories in this country and abroad. Funding was provided by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and through research fellowships received from the VFH, the National Humanities Center, the John Carter Brown Library (Brown University), and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

This excellent and easily searchable website can be reached at <http://gropius.lib.virginia.edu/slavery/index.html> or through a link from the VFH website www.virginia.edu/vfh.

Finger-Style Banjo Master Kinney Rorrer and Apprentice Jeremy Stephens (right)

The Paschall Brothers Gospel Quartet (below)



side-by-side with master artists, as it has always been done. For example, master artist **Audrey Hash Ham** learned the craft of fiddle making from her father, the legendary Albert Hash, and now, with Virginia Folklife Program's support, will help pass this regional craft on to her partner's son, Carl Powers. The Paschall Brothers learned their unique harmonies backing up their father, the late Reverend Frank Paschall, and their participation in the Apprenticeship Program will allow them to teach this unique singing style to their children and nephews. Flory Jagoda learned her Sephardic Jewish ballads, and the ancient Ladino language in which they are sung, at the feet of her *nona* (grandmother). Today, she continues to pass these cherished songs on to her own grandchildren, and, through her participation in this program, to her apprentice.

The establishment of the Apprenticeship Program has helped the Virginia Folklife Program foster close relationships with master artists throughout the state, building lifelong friends and allies and establishing critical networks for continued building of an artist roster, which will become an important resource for future statewide documentary, educational, and festival programming.

The Folklife Apprenticeship Program is among several key developments in the recent re-emergence of the Virginia Folklife

Program. Since its rebirth in the summer of 2001, the Virginia Folklife Program has designed and implemented a wide range of public programs, including the following:

A live radio program (WTJU, 91.1 FM) entitled "Virginia Folklife Hour," hosted by Virginia Folklife Program Director Jon Lohman. Studio guests have included Richmond soul legend "Mr. Wiggles," Library of Virginia music historian **Gregg Kimball**, and Apprenticeship Program recipient and 2002 National Heritage Fellow Flory Jagoda.

A series of workshops on the design and process of carrying out oral history for local grass roots cultural organizations and public school teachers, in collaboration with the VFH African American Heritage Program.

A performance and lecture series entitled "From Africa to Appalachia: The Banjo in the New World." This ongoing series is hosted by banjo performer and historian **Joe Ayers** and features an impressive list of musical guests, including **Mike Seeger**, **Alan Jabbour**, and Folklife Apprenticeship Program participant Kinney Rorrer.

The initial production of a documentary video featuring the Buckingham Lining Bar Gang, a group of retired African American railroad workers who continue to assemble to perform the call and response style work songs of the track-liners.

The Virginia Folklife Program has also forged relationships with cultural institutions throughout the state, last fall convening the first "Virginia Folklorists' Roundtable," which included the participation of folklorists from both the academic and public sectors. The Folklife Program has also carried out critical research that will be of use for regional and national fieldwork projects, including fieldwork and preparations for the 2003 and 2004 exhibitions at the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, focusing on Appalachian and Maritime folkways. And in response to last year's national tragedy, the Folklife Program participated in the 9/11 Collection Project of the Library of Congress, conducting extensive interviews in Northern Virginia, the Eastern Shore, and Central Virginia.

For information, contact Virginia Folklife Director Jon Lohman at 434-243-5523.



Master Draft Horseman **C. Marshall Cofer**

Master artists

selected to participate in the inaugural class of Folklife Apprenticeship Teams include:

Master Fiddle Maker
Audrey Hash Ham, Grayson County

Master Finger-Style Banjo Player
Kinney Rorrer, Pittsylvania County

Master Decoy Carver
Grayson Chesser, Accomack County

Master A Capella Gospel Quartet
The Paschall Brothers, Chesapeake

Master Ladino Ballad Singer
Flory Jagoda, Falls Church

Master Blacksmith **William Rogers**, Montgomery County

Master Hot-Rod Car Maker
John Rinehart, Roanoke

Master Draft Horseman
C. Marshall Cofer, Bedford County

Re-Imagining Ireland

International Conference to Explore Global Ireland

A town meeting of Ireland, out of Ireland, the program will explore the relation between global economics and traditional culture, the challenges and opportunities posed by the worldwide migration of national populations, and connections between religious and political identity and issues of war and peace. Focusing attention on Ireland's and Northern Ireland's changing profile in a global context, the program will have particular relevance for an American audience as we consider our role in the world of the future.

The conference and festival schedule includes 31 thematically organized panel sessions and special activities. On the roster are two major concerts, a series of musical narratives, an award-winning play, a new Irish feature film and series of short films, readings by major Irish poets, and an exhibition of contemporary Irish art. The program will accommodate 450 participants and registrants from Ireland and throughout the United States, with larger audiences, ranging up to 900, at special events. A documentary film and published book will extend the life and reach of *Re-Imagining Ireland*.

President Mary McAleese of Ireland will keynote *Re-Imagining Ireland—Transformations of Identity in a Global Context*, the Foundation's groundbreaking international conference and festival, to be held May 7th-10th, 2003, in Charlottesville. This unique gathering will feature more than 100 journalists, writers, politicians, artists, scholars, musicians, and citizen activists from Ireland and around the United States.

Mary McAleese is the eighth President of the Republic of Ireland and the first to come from Northern Ireland. A barrister and former professor of law, she was graduated in law from the Queen's University, Belfast, in 1973 and was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1974. In 1975, she was appointed Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Penology at Trinity College Dublin. In 1987, she returned to her alma mater, to become Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. In 1994, she became the first female Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Queen's University. President McAleese is also an experienced broadcaster, having worked as a current affairs journalist and presenter in radio and television with Radio Telefís Éireann, Ireland's national broadcaster.

Among the 102 other participants slated to appear at the conference are such award-winning writers and poets as Frank McCourt, Roddy Doyle, Nuala O'Faolain, Colm Toibin, Ciaran Carson, and Paula Meehan; renowned musicians, including Frankie Gavin, Seamus Egan, Mick Moloney, Andy Irvine, Joannie Madden, Martin Hayes,

Tommy Sands, Bruce Molsky, and Len Graham with Pádraigín Ní Uallachain; celebrated historians, including Declan Kiberd, Joe Lee, Kerby Miller, Donald Aken-son, Tim Pat Coogan, Marianne Elliott, Roy Foster, and Noel Ignatiev; respected journalists and authors Susan McKay, Jacki Lyden, Eamonn McCann, David McKittrick, and Fintan O'Toole; and well-known activists and politicians such as Margaret Mac Curtain, Michael D. Higgins, and David Ervine. Participants will also include economists, prominent business and cultural leaders, clergy, Irish Travelers (sometimes referred to as "tinkers" or gypsies), and representatives of the news media.

Re-Imagining Ireland is funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Cultural Relations Committee of Ireland. Additional major support has been provided by the Anne Lee Ueltschi Foundation, the Office of the President at the University of Virginia, Foras na Gaeilge in Dublin, Caterpillar, RBC Dain Rauscher, the Forum for Contemporary Thought (UVa), and individual donors. Dominion Digital of Charlottesville and



Mary McAleese was inaugurated as the President of Ireland in 1997.

Richmond is contributing the design of the *Re-Imagining Ireland* web site. Institutional cosponsors include Poetry Ireland, the Film Board of Ireland, the Cork International Film Festival, the Irish Centre for Migration Studies, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, and Glucksman Ireland House at New York University.

Complete information about this program will be available soon at the project website: www.re-imagining-ireland.org. Registration will commence in late November. To receive printed bulletins and registration materials when available, please e-mail re-imag-ir@virginia.edu.

Fund raising for *Re-Imagining Ireland* is still in process. For detailed information on development opportunities, please contact *Re-Imagining Ireland* Project Director Andrew Wyndham at (434) 924-6894 (awyndham@virginia.edu), or write to the VFH, 145 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

FALL 2002 VFH FELLOWS

Diverse Origins and Stunning Scholarly Interests

The Fall 2002 Fellows bring to the VFH a mix of challenging research topics and compelling public dialogue about some of the most pressing issues in this country and the world. Four scholars are Rockefeller Foundation Fellows in the Special Initiative on Violence and Survival.

Vupenyu Dzingirai, a social anthropologist at the University of Zimbabwe, is examining the motives for the widespread ethnic and political violence in Zimbabwe and other African countries and the ways in which states in crisis cover up their violence through propaganda, elimination of political threats, and prosecutions.

Fall 2002 VFH Fellows (left to right) are Lorraine Gates Schulyer, Irina Carlota Silber, Vupenyu Dzingirai, Walter A. Jackson, Margarita Villarreal Castillo, and Sinkwan Cheng.



VFH Fellows Dianne Swann-Wright (left), Director of African American and Special Programs at Monticello, and Lucia Stanton, Shannon Senior Research Historian, also at Monticello, are completing their publication entitled *Getting Word: The Oral History of Monticello's African American Families*.

Irina Carlota Silber, program manager for the National Council for Research on Women, New York, N.Y., is exploring the unfolding legacies of political violence, collective trauma, and injustice during El Salvador's negotiated transition from war to peace to democracy. Silber's study of reconciliation is based on 17 months of fieldwork with Salvadorans struggling to make meaning of their past sacrifices and their place in the new political and economic life of the nation.

Using Nietzsche's concept of *ressentiment* as a starting point, **Sinkwan Cheng**, most recently affiliated with SUNY Buffalo, N.Y., is making a break with studies performed by both the left and the right on the problems internal to radical revolutionary movements. She is drawing insights from Camus and Lacan, as well as their predecessors Nietzsche and Freud; all shed light on the intimate relationship between morality and aggression.

Margarita Villarreal Castillo, professor of Latin American Studies at Nicaragua's Central American University, brings more than 10 years of research and analysis to her search for an answer to the question: "How can an army, born of a revolution and with a clear political ideology, be consigned to the service of a newly elected government?" She is one of the few ethnographic researchers to explore the memories and opinions of military personnel following the demilitarization of a government and—in Nicaragua's case—the emergence of a liberal democratic regime.

The first South Atlantic Humanities Center fellow **Walter A. Jackson**, professor of history at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., is completing his volume of essays on 20th century intellectuals and the study of black-white relations in the United States. He is exploring the changing ideas and political commitments of scholars in the fields of sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, history, and social ethics.

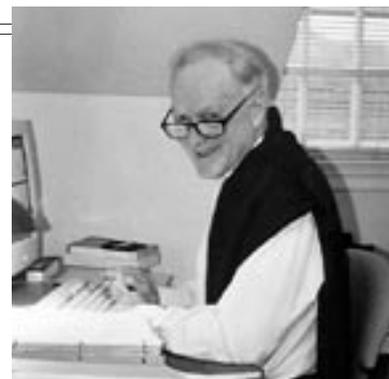
Lorraine Gates Schulyer, a lecturer in the history department at the University of Virginia, is analyzing the symbolic and substantive effects of political activism by African American women in the South during the 1920s and 1930s. African American women organized sophisticated voter-mobilization drives and citizenship schools and worked to leverage their ballots in exchange for improved services and institutions for African Americans.

Dianne Swann-Wright, director of African American and Special Programs at Monticello, and **Lucia Stanton**, Shannon Senior Research Historian, also at Monticello, are completing their publication entitled *Getting Word: The Oral History of Monticello's African American Families*. Using more than 140 interviews with descendants of Monticello's enslaved families, Swann-Wright and Stanton are exploring two centuries of the African American experience in the United States.

For more than a decade, the VFH has sponsored exploration of subjects in history, culture, ethics, philosophy, religious studies, and other disciplines, as these illuminate topics and problems of current and abiding public import. The Fellows Program is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and private donations and supports scholars who conduct their own research while also contributing to the Foundation's work.

History Scholar Awarded First Emilia Galli Struppa Fellowship

The first Emilia Galli Struppa Fellowship in the Humanities has been awarded to **David Buisseret**, the Garrett Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington. Professor Buisseret was resident at VFH during the month of August while editing a 650-page work, entitled the "Taylor Manuscript," that deals with the "State of Jamaica" around 1685. Before he left Jamaica in 1980 after 15 years of teaching at the University of the West Indies, Buisseret had largely transcribed the Taylor Manuscript, which promises to be an important foundational document for the history of post-Spanish Jamaica. The Emilia Galli Struppa Fellowship was endowed in 2002 by VFH Board Member Daniele Struppa in honor of his mother, a scholar of the Classics.



David Buisseret



Purse boats from Reedville, Virginia, heading out to make a set
(photo by Starke Jett; courtesy of The Greater Reedville Association)

Documenting Virginia's Rural Maritime Heritage

BY DAVID BEARINGER

Two recent grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities—both awarded in June 2002—are supporting important new efforts to document the cultural heritage and traditions of Virginia's rural maritime regions.

These areas—the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Eastern Shore—were settled early by English colonists who displaced Native American populations and began to tap the natural wealth of the land and waters. Over more than 350 years, agriculture, fishing, and related commercial activities and industries flourished, creating a complex and durable fabric of traditional culture and community life.

Although they were never as isolated from the rest of the world as many people believe—and stereotypes suggest—these areas did remain geographically remote until fairly recently, a fact that helped to keep their cultural heritage largely intact. But over the

past several decades, global competition, environmental stresses, declining harvests, improved transportation and communication, and broader changes in the fabric of American culture have altered these regions' traditional economies and threatened their long-established ways of life.

All this makes the documentation of Virginia's rural maritime communities, their expressive and material traditions, and their efforts to preserve what can be preserved extremely important.

Working in partnership with the VFH's newly-established Eastern Shore Regional Humanities Council, the **Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society** is currently engaged in a year-long VFH-funded effort to

produce a "Cultural Heritage Map and Guide" to Accomack and Northampton Counties. This publication will include information on regional folk arts, maritime traditions, community celebrations (such as seafood festivals), agriculture, fisheries, historic architecture, African American history, Native American history, regional settlement patterns, changing landscapes, commercial life, and cultural heritage sites. The guide will be richly illustrated and provide several alternative tour routes for the "bayside" and "seaside" corridors. A first printing of 20,000 copies is anticipated, and the publication will be made available free of charge to Eastern Shore visitors and local residents through museums, libraries, tourism centers, historic sites, and at local festivals and events.

The goal of this project is to produce a heritage tourism resource that is easily accessible and informative, one that will serve the immediate needs of visitors while contributing to a much broader understanding of the Eastern Shore's history and culture.

In July 2004, the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, held on the Washington Mall, will focus on the maritime cultures of the Mid-Atlantic region, including all the coastal states from New York to North Carolina. VFH grant funds awarded to the **Reedville Fishermen's Museum** are currently supporting fieldwork research and documentation on the Eastern Shore, the Northern Neck, and Middle Peninsula, with a special focus on how local communities in these regions have responded to the changes that have occurred during the past generation.

Several earlier VFH-supported fieldwork projects have prepared the way for this new effort. In 1992-1993, collaborative research conducted through

the Virginia Folklife Program resulted in a traveling exhibit on the occupational traditions of the Northern Neck ("Because My Work is What I Do," produced by the Greater Reedville Association). A few years later, VFH grant funds supported the Virginia portion of a three-state project to create the first inventory of folklife resources on the DelMarVa Peninsula (grant to the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation) and a film on the watermen of Gloucester County ("They Live in Guinea"; grants to Achilles Elementary School).

This new research will seek to identify and document tradition bearers such as long-time commercial fishermen, boat builders, decoy carvers, and others who have not previously been documented. Copies of field reports will be permanently housed at the Reedville Fishermen's Museum, to be used by future scholars and in the creation of new educational programs. Increasing awareness of Virginia's threatened maritime heritage may direct new energy toward preservation efforts and serve as an example for other threatened communities.

These two projects are certain to increase already widespread interest in Virginia's maritime regions. Our hope is that greater awareness will inspire a new level of commitment, to strengthen and protect what remains of this portion of our cultural heritage. Virginia's maritime regions have never been static, and the goal of these projects is not to romanticize the past. Instead, we hope that through careful documentation, these traditions and communities can continue changing—as they always have—but that they won't be overwhelmed and lost entirely before their value and the true costs of their disappearance are fully understood.

Radio Programming Expands Foundation's Reach

Now in its 10th broadcast year, *With Good Reason*, which airs on all 10 Virginia public radio stations, inaugurated its new twin-production studios on September 11th, with a special show marking the national anniversary.

The live broadcast featured a 90-minute discussion and call-in focusing on U.S. policy overseas, particularly in the Middle East, as related to Iraq. VFH President Robert Vaughan and WGR host Sarah McConnell moderated the discussion. Area experts included **John Norton Moore** of the University of Virginia, **David Little** of the Harvard Divinity School, Virginia Tech History Professor **William Ochsenwald**, and Brigadier General **Casey Brower** of Virginia Military Institute. The show was broadcast on WVTF as well as online. Phoned-in questions came from throughout Virginia, as well as from North Carolina. One listener called from Texas, where he had picked up the program as it was streamed on the web.

The 9/11 special is just one example of how the staff and studios of *With Good Reason* enable sponsoring state colleges and universities and the VFH to reach ever-wider audiences. This September marked the first time the radio staff produced smaller,

two-minute versions of the show—so-called “spin-downs”—that are airing in major radio markets during the coveted morning and afternoon drive times. These modules are giving a large group of Virginians access to timely interview segments, while drawing more listeners to broadcasts of the show itself.

On another front, major radio networks, such as NPR, and overseas broadcasters, such as the CBC and BBC, are using the technology of the *With Good Reason* studios to interview professors from the University of Virginia and elsewhere for programs that air nationally and around the world. Here in Virginia, a monthly call-in program on pressing political issues in the state now uses the facility for its live broadcasts. Departments within the VFH also make use of the state-of-the-art equipment; the Virginia Folklife Program, for example, collects and disseminates performances and interviews using equipment acquired for the studio. Plans call

for eventually producing a series of radio shows highlighting the work of the Foundation's diverse programs, making the *With Good Reason* facility an important vehicle for expanding the reach of VFH activities.

With Good Reason is a one-half hour program featuring interviews with scholars from Virginia's public universities and colleges on matters ranging from the worlds of science and the arts, to politics, history, and business. The show is produced for the Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and is aired on public radio stations in Virginia and six surrounding states. By the end of 2002, more than 800 faculty, representing every state-supported, four-year college and university and the community colleges, will have been featured on the program. Sponsoring institutions include all of Virginia's four-year public colleges and universities, as well as the state's community college system.

The producer and host of *With Good Reason* is Sarah McConnell, Sean Tubbs is Associate Producer, Andrew Wyndham is Executive Producer, Amy Marshall provides administrative and publicity assistance, and Jeannie Palin coordinates listener services.

With Good Reason celebrated its 10th anniversary and new twin-production studios on September 11th with a call-in program on U.S. policies in the Middle East and Iraq. VFH President Robert Vaughan and WGR host Sarah McConnell moderated the 90-minute program.

Where to hear *With Good Reason*

WAMU 88.5 FM Washington, D.C.
Sunday, midnight

WCVE 88.9 FM Richmond
Saturday, 1 PM

WETS 89.5 FM Johnson City, Tenn.
Sunday, 11 AM

WHRV 89.5 FM Norfolk
Monday, 11 PM

WMRA 90.7, 103.5 FM,
WMRL 89.9 FM, WMRV 94.5
Harrisonburg
Thursday, 7:30 PM

WNSB 91.1 FM Norfolk
Sunday, 6:30 PM

WVRU 89.9 FM Radford
Friday, 10:30 PM

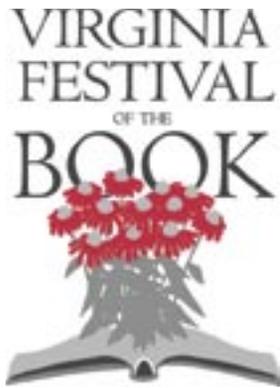
WVST 91.3 FM Petersburg
Tuesday, 8 PM

WVTF 89.1 FM, WVTW 88.5 FM,
WVTU 89.3 FM, WVTR 91.9 FM
Roanoke

Wednesday, 7:30 PM

WISE 90.5 Wise
Monday at 7:30 PM





VABook! 2003 Announces Luncheon Speaker Lee Smith

The ninth annual Virginia Festival of the Book is pleased to announce that acclaimed storyteller Lee Smith will be the speaker for the annual luncheon on Thursday, March 20th, 2003, at 11:45 a.m. at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel. Smith is the author of *Fair and Tender Ladies*, *Oral History*, *Saving Grace*, and most recently *The Last Girls*.



Lee Smith (photo by Susan Woodley Raines)

The Last Girls is about five college friends who, during the mid-1960s—an era when they were unapologetically called “girls”—floated down the Mississippi River. This Huck Finn-inspired odyssey took them from Paducah, Kentucky, all the way to New Orleans. Thirty-five years later, four of those “girls” reunite for a steamboat voyage down the river to scatter the ashes of their departed fifth companion along the way.

Interestingly, Smith herself joined college classmates from an American literature course on just such a rafting trip. More than a dozen women, dubbed the “Hollins Girls,” became the subjects of national headlines during the summer of 1966.

“We are delighted Lee Smith is coming,” said VABook! Program Director Nancy Damon. “Her new book reflects the impact great stories like Twain’s classic have on our imaginations, and on our lives. Smith’s storytelling talent is like the Mississippi—the audience will be swept away by her humor, humanity, and ebullient charm.”

Smith’s awards include the Academy Award in Literature presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Award, and the Robert Penn Warren Prize for Fiction.

New online features at vabook.org

When you see the new VABook! bookmark each year, you start looking forward to the spring extravaganza.

Well, now you can make the VABook!

website www.vabook.org a bookmark on your web browser—and use it to keep updated on literary events in Virginia all year round!

Great new features in our Literary Links section include:

- **Central Virginia Literary Calendar**, listing author events, book sales, writing workshops, and conferences taking place throughout the Commonwealth. See when your favorite authors are coming into the area and plan accordingly. You can also post literary or book events yourself via the web—a true resource for Virginia’s literary community.
- a page with links to Virginia’s **Literacy Programs**.
- an archive of **VABooks! Book Recommendations** by Virginia authors, book professionals, and celebrities.
- a page to sign up to receive the infrequent **VABook! News** e-mail newsletter, the best way to stay up to date on festival events.

Just remember to go online soon at www.vabook.org to have a look at these improvements—so many ways to keep up on your reading!

All America Reads Comes to the VFH

The newest member of the VABook! family is All America Reads (AAR). Originating in Virginia, AAR is a nationwide comprehensive reading project designed to encourage reading and discussion. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities became the home of AAR earlier this year.

Anyone can participate in AAR—middle, high school, adult education, and college students; educators; book groups; librarians; corporations and foundations; and families and neighbors. In schools, AAR provides resources to help new and developing readers to increase their level of enjoyment and engagement, while challenging proficient readers to explore literature further. In book groups and libraries, AAR assists by providing access to helpful resources and to the author. From corporations and foundations to families and neighbors, this popular program generates a common experience

among generations and cultures and across geographic, social, and economic barriers.

Readers can join in this shared reading experience at no charge by visiting the AAR website at www.allamericareads.org or through the VFH website, www.virginia.edu/vfh. This website includes information about the author and novel; extensive educational lesson plans; reading guides and resources for book groups; interactive activities rooms; reading strategies and theory; online interviews with authors in text and streaming video; and guest articles and discussions.

The VFH is now working with a national advisory committee to select the second novel for AAR. The new novel and its author will be announced at the 2003 Virginia Festival of the Book.

The current novel, *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci (Warner Books 2000) will remain on the website. Set in 1940 Southwest Virginia, this selection is the story of a precocious 12-year-old girl who, with her brother and gravely ill mother, leaves New York City for the mountains of Virginia to live with her great-grandmother on the family farm. On the land her father had left, loved, and



written about, she learns lessons in loyalty, friendship, tragedy, and redemption; and experiences adventures that are tragic, comic, and audacious.

Other VABook! programs include the Virginia Festival of the Book, *Motheread and Fatheread* of Virginia, a monthly “VABooks” newspaper/magazine column, the Arts of the Book Center, and book discussions on a variety of themes. AAR complements these VFH programs by selecting a single novel and creating a community in which readers can join in a shared reading experience and explore the book’s characters and themes.



Pete Seeger in Yancey Elementary Library

A Time to Plant: Seeger Gives Family Literacy Gift

During the March 2001 Virginia Festival of the Book, folksinger and writer Pete Seeger performed in person at the B. F. Yancey Elementary School in Albemarle County, delighting the audience with his songs and stories.

Several months later, Seeger and coauthor Paul Jacobs generously donated 512 copies of *Pete Seeger’s Storytelling Book* to the national office of *Motheread and Fatheread* in Raleigh, N.C., to demonstrate

their appreciation of the work *Motheread and Fatheread* is doing nationally. The books have since been distributed to *Motheread and Fatheread* programs across the United States.

During Seeger’s visit to Albemarle County, he performed his famous children’s story *Abiyoyo*. At the same event, *Motheread and Fatheread* honored the fathers who had participated in the school’s *Fatheread* book discussion group led by teachers Phil Fellows and Al Quist.

Motheread and Fatheread, established nationally in 1987, is a family and adult literacy program. The VFH has been home to *Motheread and Fatheread* of Virginia since 1998, ensuring that every Virginian will have access to good literature.



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for the Humanities

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On the Cover

The Virginia Folklife Program
celebrated its first-ever Folklife
Apprenticeship program with
a rousing Opening Exhibition
on September 14th

