

Subject: Three Years

From: Alabama Folklife Association (alabamafolklife@att.net)

To: trg@russellgulley.com;

Date: Monday, October 7, 2013 8:06 AM

FOLK E-NEWS



One State,
Many Traditions,
Our Heritage

THREE YEARS with the Alabama Folklife Association *Message from the Executive Director*

October 4, 2013

On Monday, October 4, 2010, I started my position as Executive Director of the Alabama Folklife Association (AFA). I came into an organization that stood on a strong foundation of partners, members, volunteers, and 30 years of achievements in preserving, documenting, and presenting Alabama's folk and traditional arts through programs and products.



The first year was exciting, a roadmap filled with special events to include the Charlie Stripling Tribute Fiddle Fest and Fish Fry in Belk, the Sacred Harp Singing School at Tannehill State Park, and Rocking the Blues: *The Story of Rock in the Shoals*, a collaboration with the W.C. Handy Festival.

These events kept me busy and provided an introduction to several of the many musical traditions of Alabama. The upcoming two years would prove to be just as productive, sending me all over the state where I met our current members, artists, and new partners. These experiences opened many doors for

2010-2013 More Successes!

Joyce Cauthen Fellowship Fund

Over \$7,000.00 donated to fund research projects resulting in new folklife collections. To date, the AFA has awarded five fellowships. Three projects are complete and two are set to be finished soon.

Archive of Alabama Folk Culture: Funded for 2.5 years

AFA awarded \$165,900.00 in grant funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as recommended by the

the organization and I became familiar with some new opportunities.

Recently the traveling exhibit, ALABAMA in the MAKING: *Traditional Arts of People and Place* facilitated those travels allowing the AFA to connect with so many people across the state. Alabama in the Making supported over 15 jobs in the state. In addition, many artists and speakers benefited from honorariums for their contributions to special programs. Hundreds of students of all ages enjoyed the exhibit due to special programs like those provided by the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum in Thomasville. Educators benefited through training and professional programs held at the University of West Alabama. [Don't forget, this exhibit is available, click here for more information!](#)

Of course, the second year would bring on challenging times that impacted all of us in the arts and humanities. Like other organizations, the AFA moved forward continuing to produce programs and complete projects. By making necessary adjustments to maintain the organization, we survived and the future is getting brighter.

Change and adaption became the new horizon in 2012. While some outstanding and dedicated members of the Board of Directors moved on, the AFA welcomed new members to fill their shoes including Charlie Lucas, Dr. Alan Brown, Dan Bynum, Emily Blejwas, Dr. Tina Jones, and Deborah Rankins.

We also welcomed a new staff member to the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture, Weston Flippo. A library information specialist, Weston joined archivist, Kevin Nutt in January, 2013. He dove right into the position, transporting collections from the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture to the Alabama Department of Archives and History to begin accessioning and cataloging processes.

Today, the AFA continues to change and evolve. We are looking forward to implementing a new communications plan to feature new brochures, new web site, and new electronic media. Not too long from now we will announce the opening of our upcoming exhibit, **"We'll all Sing Hallelujah," Sacred Sounds of Alabama.** AFA will also launch a web site for Sacred Sounds of Alabama that will be available for doing research and provide a calendar of events, links to educational information, and more information on the exhibit.

Time definitely flies by, especially when you are working in a dynamic and diverse field and for an

Center for Library and Information Resources.

Alabama Community Scholars Institute

Want to read all about it? NEW Alabama Community Scholar, Kristin Law provides her interpretation in a blog article (click title below):

[**An Artist, A Folklorist & A Monk Walk Into A Barn...**](#)

AFA was In the Scenes

We were visible everywhere and could be heard across the country. The AFA was in six television shows, a series of radio interviews, a podcast spot, and numerous feature newspaper articles about Cauthen Fellowship research projects and Alabama in the Making.

AFA was SEEN!

We had a booth at five festivals this past year including Boom Days and Canyonfest in Ft. Payne. AFA continued to sponsor two singing events in Montgomery, held every year. Grand opening and open house events associated with the exhibit brought visitors to local institutions and we were there to meet them. What a turn out in Thomasville and what unique professional presentations in Tuscumbia!

More on Next Year

We are looking forward to producing a new publication dedicated to

organization dedicated to researching, honoring, and supporting our cultural heritage as expressed through our folk and traditional arts. We still have much to discover and much work to do, because Alabama is "One State" with "Many Traditions" and despite our uniqueness and differences, we all have shared experiences that make Alabama's folkways, "Our Heritage."

I personally want to say THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the organization over the last three years through donations, partnerships, participation, or general in-kind contributions.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted me in navigating the waters as I stepped into this most challenging role that brings new surprises every day. Down each tributary there is a world to be discovered, so the journey continues. Each time there is another treasure discovered, a new journey begins.

Mary Allison Haynie
Executive Director

alabamafolklife@att.net
www.alabamafolklife.org

the work of our Cauthen Fellows. In 2014, we will be publicizing the progress of the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture as new collections are made available.

Looking into the crystal ball, we see visions of quilting workshops, another special program dedicated to our Sacred Harp musical traditions, and more programs to serve young students. We see a series of one-day or two-day programs across the state to make Alabama Community Scholars Institute courses more accessible.

Until the next FOLK E-NEWS, get out and enjoy fall festivals, support your local artists, local galleries, local museums, and local businesses!

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to trg@russellgulley.com by alabamafolklife@att.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Alabama Folklife Association | 5709 Belle Ridge Trail | Birmingham | AL | 35201