

Contributors

Marcel Arbeit is Associate Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. He is an EAAS Board Member. He is the current President of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies. He teaches 20th-century American literature, literary theory, literature and film, and the culture of the American South. His main fields of research are contemporary Southern literature, American and Canadian independent filmmakers, and popular culture. His recent publications focus on Harry Crews, Fred Chappell, Lewis Nordan, and the South in Film. He has also translated and edited a number of books by American and British writers. He is the main editor of the three-volume *Bibliography of American Literature in Czech Translation* (2000). His monograph *Novels of Fred Chappell and Cormac McCarthy and the Development of Southern Literature since the 1960s* is forthcoming.

Thomas Ærvold Bjerre is a Ph.D.-student at the University of Southern Denmark. The title of his dissertation is "Cowboy Crackers: The Influence of the American Western on Contemporary Southern Fiction." He teaches American Literature and Culture at the Center for American Studies and has reviewed American fiction in Danish newspapers. He has published essays on Barry Hannah and Lewis Nordan in the *Mississippi Quarterly* and contributed to the book *Madison Jones' Garden of Innocence* [reviewed in this issue]. He will have essays in the forthcoming books *Perspectives on Barry Hannah* and *Larry Brown: Voices of the Yeoman South*. Bjerre is currently co-editing a Lewis Nordan special issue of the *Mississippi Quarterly*.

Durban, Pam Rosa Novelist. Short story writer. She was born Rosa Palmer Durban, in Aiken, S.C. The writer grew up in Aiken, where her family has lived for generations. In the 1970s she wrote as a free-lancer for *Osceola*, a newspaper, published by people associated with Clemson

University. Durban worked as a contributing editor for the *Atlanta Gazette*, 1974-75. In Atlanta she taped interviews with women in a textile mill community and published them as *Cabbagetown Families*, 1976. She was a founding editor of the magazine *Five Points* and served as its fiction editor, 1996-2001. She is currently Doris Betts Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at University of N.C. at Chapel Hill, 2001-. Fiction: *All Set About with Fever Trees* (stories: 1985); *The Laughing Place* (novel: 1993); *So Far Back* (2000), for that outstanding novel Durban was awarded the Lillian Smith Award for Fiction. [Durban is interviewed in this issue].

Walter Edgar is the Claude Neuffer Professor of Southern Studies and the George Washington Distinguished Professor of History at the Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina. He is the author of *South Carolina: A History* (1998) and editor of the just published *South Carolina Encyclopedia*.

Nikky Finney is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky. She is a poet and the author of *On Wings Made of Gauze* (1985), the much acclaimed *Rice* (1995), *Heartwood* (1998), and *The World Is Round* (2002) [reviewed in this issue]. Her contagious energy and passion for writing extend beyond academia. She travels extensively, reading to listeners, staying connected and engaged, and maintaining her commitment to the risky business of creativity.

Jan Nordby Gretlund is chair of the Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark. He is the literary editor of the EAAS *Southern Studies Forum Newsletter*, and author of *Eudora Welty's Aesthetics of Place* (1997) and of *Frames of Southern Mind* (1998). He has edited (with Tony Badger & Walter Edgar) *Southern Landscapes* (1996) and four books with Karl-Heinz Westarp: *Realist of Distances: Flannery O'Connor Revisited*; *Walker Percy: Novelist and Philosopher*; *The Late Novels of Eudora Welty*; and *Flannery O'Connor's Radical Reality* (2006). He has also edited *The Southern State of Mind* (1999); *Madison Jones' Garden of Innocence* (2005); and "A Southern Issue" of *American Studies in Scandinavia* (33/2-2001).

Madison Jones grew up in rural Tennessee, served in Korea, and has degrees from Vanderbilt and University of Florida. He has taught at University of Miami, Ohio, the University of Tennessee, and from 1956 at Auburn University, from 1968 as Professor of English and *Alumni* writer-in-residence and is at present Auburn University Writer-in-Residence, Emeritus. He was inducted into the Fellowship of Southern Writers in 1989. He is the author of eleven novels *The Innocent* (paper, Sanders 1993), *Forest of the Night* (1960), *A Buried Land* (1963), *An Exile* (made into the film *I Walk the Line*), *A Cry of Absence* (paper, LSUP 1995), *Passage Through Gehenna* (1978), *Season of the Strangler* (1982), *Last Things* (1989), *To the Winds* (1996), and *Nashville 1864: The Dying of the Light* (paper, Penguin 1998) winner of the T. S. Eliot Award for Creative Writing. His latest novel *Herod's Wife* appeared in 2003.

Torben Huus Larsen is a Ph.D.-student at the Center for American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense. His primary interest is American environmental studies and his thesis examined some of the different ways in which the Tennessee River has been narrated. He is currently working on a study of the invention of a middle landscape tradition in the post-TVA Tennessee Valley.

Zbigniew Mazur teaches British History and Cultural Studies at the Institute of English, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin and at the Institute of English, Warsaw University, Poland. His research interests center on the cultural history of colonial British America, leisure, sport, and national identity in British and American culture. He is the author of *Settlers and Indians: Transformations of English Culture in Seventeenth-Century Virginia* (Lublin: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press, 1995).

Anette Nibe holds an MA in English from the University of Southern Denmark, where she also taught courses in the field of American Studies from 1999 to 2006. Her research and interest areas include: American history, race relations, the cultural history of advertising, and consumer culture, as well as the state of the American welfare state. Anette Nibe now works as a career counselor in Odense, Denmark.

Mikko Saikku is Associate Professor at the Renvall Institute for American and Cultural Studies, University of Helsinki. He is the author of *This Delta, This Land: An Environmental History of the Yazoo-Mississippi Floodplain* (University of Georgia Press, 2005) [reviewed in this issue], and coeditor of *Encountering the Past in Nature: Essays in Environmental History* (Ohio University Press, 2001).

Hans H. Skei is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Oslo. He is the author of *William Faulkner: The Short Story Career* (1981); *William Faulkner: The Novelist as Short Story Writer* (1984); and *Reading Faulkner's Best Short Stories* (1999). He has translated Faulkner's Snopes trilogy into Norwegian and is the editor of *William Faulkner's Short Fiction: An International Symposium* (1997). He has published essays on a number of Southern writers among them Shelby Foote, Mary Chesnut, Eudora Welty, Madison Jones, and Flannery O'Connor, some of these are now collected in *Faulkner and Other Southern Writers* (2004). He has co-edited and contributed to *The Art of Brevity: Excursions in Short Fiction Theory and Analysis* (2004).

William Walsh is the author of *The Conscience of My Other Being* (2005), reviewed in this issue; *The Ordinary Life of a Sculptor*; *Speak So I Shall Know Thee: Interviews with Southern Writers*; and is the editor of *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poets from 1951-1977*. He resides in Atlanta with his wife and three children.