

Spring 2016

# The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.



COACHING  
from the  
*Archives*  
AT HICKORY HILL

*Numbers*  
DON'T LIE  
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SIGNATURE  
*Carvings*  
WOODWORKING AT GOODRUM



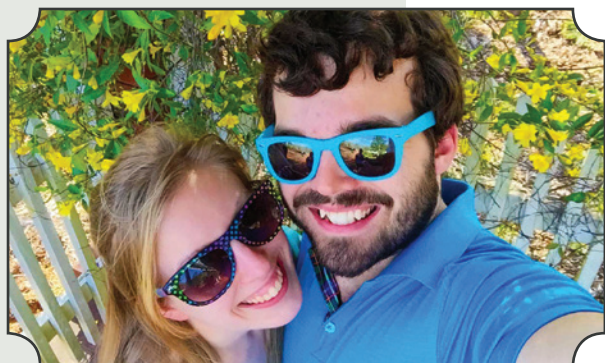


“For, mark it, reader, there is within the heart and soul of the best woman a purity and a heroism which no man ever possessed; and, beside the best of wives, even the best of husbands will repeat with bitter self-reproach, the publican’s prayer of ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”



—Thomas E. Watson, *Bethany, A Story of the Old South*, 1905

# Contents



## Campus Notes

Watson-Brown Scholar updates



## Alumni Spotlight

by Shannon Friedmann Hatch



## Goodrum House

by Barbara Hyde



## Sticks & Stones

by Michelle L. Zupan

## OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

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PUIWONG

# CAMPUS NOTES



## Watson-Brown Scholars in Action



**Pui Wong**, University of Georgia, Senior: “Last semester I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in an exchange program in Lyon, France. This experience opened my eyes a lot, after all, it allowed me to glimpse into another world where almost everything runs differently. From getting administrative work done within the rather inefficient French bureaucratic system to learning the peculiar social norms of the young French, my experience abroad gave me an invaluable lesson that makes me more observant and reflective on American and French cultures. Perhaps just as important is the academic progress I have made: Through daily practice and immersion, I have improved my French proficiency so that now I can have normal conversations in French with ease. My semester abroad has made a great impact on the development of my worldview, and I strongly encourage anyone who hasn’t done it yet to opt for it to challenge himself or herself!”



**Travis Vaught**, University of Georgia, Senior: “Last year, I worked as a student representative for Adobe. I promoted their Creative Cloud software through on-campus events, social media marketing, and giving away free stuff. At the end of the year, I began my graphic design internship at RyanLittsCreative. I assist in designing Web sites and illustrations for clients. I also began volunteering with an animation start-up called My Animation Life (MAL). My

Animation Life is a resource organization and staffing agency dedicated to the career advancement and placement of artists within the animation-related industries. I am in the process of starting a club at UGA that will help animation, design, and film students get the resources and connections they need enter the growing creative job market in the Metro Atlanta area. This opportunity is truly exciting for me, because not only do I get to make great connections in the industry, but also I can help others do the same.

“This summer, I’m still working as a graphic designer at my internship, and I’m working on an animated film to submit to various Atlanta film festivals. When I’m not doing these things, I volunteer my time at Christian Campus Fellowship (CCF). I’ve been at student leader there for over two years now, and I love every minute of it. My time at CCF has helped me grow immensely, and I’ve made friendships there that will last a lifetime.”



**Anjali Carroll**, Brown University, Junior: “It was a big year. I declared a concentration, joined a food co-op, decided to study abroad in Cuba, and even took a bus to Newport! My academic life is finally beginning to feel like it has some direction, as my life outside of class is more open and free than ever before. I’m trying, and I think I’m finding success, at balancing specificity and freedom. In fact, I finally feel like I am comfortably settled into the college experience, and boy, does it feel great. I especially felt that one day when I went to see Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, founder of liberation theology, give a talk at a local college. A group of friends and I also ate lunch with Fr. Gutierrez and got to talk to him about his life and work. We functioned not only as his students, fellow scholars, or casual lunch mates, but as a rich combination of the three that seems to occur uniquely in collegiate settings. That day encapsulated all of the things I love about college. I had fun with my closest



friends, conversed with a world-renowned scholar, and learned from all of them about our relationships with the world that surrounds us all.”

**Katherine Bean**, Georgia College and State University, Senior: “One of the best experiences I have ever had was joining the Georgia College Swing Dance Association. I have been a member for two years and have loved every moment of it. I have now practiced, performed, and taught swing dancing, one of the best forms of dance, in my opinion. The association has helped me overcome my fear of public speaking and performing. It has taught me to trust other people, for the girls are continuously relying and trusting their partners to catch them in advance lifts. I have learned a great deal of skills from this campus club, which I know will help in the future.”

### Dafydd Durairaj,

University of Maryland College Park, Senior:

“Last summer, I interned at a data analysis firm that contracts with the government to evaluate the policy impacts of certain USAID programs. The purpose of my internship was to assist with the research and learn how to evaluate economic impact. But I ended up learning quite a bit more about how a business is run and how to get contracts from the government. Reading official USAID documents from its efforts in Palestine helped me gain a more accurate view of the conflicts there.

“After work during the summer, I’d come home to work on the quantitative trading competition hosted by the hedge fund WorldQuant. Competitors would develop algorithms that directed the computer to buy and sell stocks with the goal of increasing total profits and reducing volatility of profits. I ended up finishing in the top 20 out of 500 competitors globally, and I earned a cash prize of \$750. Because of my strong showing in the competition, WorldQuant offered me a part-time research job at the firm where I’d continue developing trading strategies. Today, four of my algorithms are being used by portfolio managers at the firm.

“I’m supremely grateful for the financial help provided by the Watson-Brown Foundation.”



**Amber Laughinghouse**, University of South Carolina – Aiken, Sophomore: “College has been the experience of a lifetime. Doors have opened for me that I never believed were possible. Of course, first semester took a lot of adjusting. Everything was new and interesting and in turn, time management became the task to tackle. I began to love having the responsibility to eat whenever I wanted, to go to the gym as I pleased, to not have a curfew, and to be able to make every decision entirely on my own. The freedom allowed me to make mistakes and grow from them and to branch out and do things that I never would have considered doing in the past. I find myself making long-term decisions for my future and participating in all the grown-up things that I feel like I’m still too young to be doing.

“College as a nursing major is definitely much more stressful than I imagined: I found myself in study rooms at 3 a.m. living off of vending machine snacks and coffee! There were even a few occasions of my roommate telling me that I recited my biology notes in my sleep. Hard work pays off though; it was an extremely rewarding feeling to get an A on a test or an A in the class at the end of the semester. My Freshman year of college flew by and I’m happy to say that it was everything I could have hoped for and more. I have applied to the nursing program with high chances of being accepted.

“I became a walk on for USCA’s Women’s Cross Country team, and I am currently doing an internship through the school over the summer. Being able to attend college is the best thing that has ever happened to me and I am extremely grateful for this scholarship, because without it, I would not



have had the chance to live the reality that I am living now.”

**Jared Long**, Kennesaw University, Sophomore: “This first year at Kennesaw State University has not gone as expected. Although I had an idea of what college would be like because of attending the Governor’s Honors Program, it did not prepare me for everything.

“At Governor’s Honors everyone was in the same confused, stressed-out boat, and the program was very structured, whereas in college everyone has different levels of experiences and there is a lot more freedom. In essence, nothing can fully prepare you for college life, you just have to experience it yourself and be flexible



JARED LONG

enough to adjust accordingly.

"I learned very quickly that in college the first thing you have to do is get a feel for your schedule. You may have a class that only meets once a week, have a Tuesday/Thursday class, or have a busy day with four classes. Another area that took some work was trying to figure out 'when' to do my homework and for 'which' class. This was challenging to navigate so I ended up having to meet with my teachers to get some help.

"My greatest academic accomplishments this year was that I got all A's, maintained a 4.0 average that dates back to before middle school, and made the President's list in the fall. I was also asked to joined several Honor Fraternities (which I did) and invited to join the Society of Collegiate Leadership and Achievement. As for my other accomplishments, I found a church that I am settling into, I started figuring out which events might be cool to go to, and even found a club — Baptist Collegiate Ministries — that I am really liking because it keeps me grounded with the Lord and is a good way to find volunteer projects. It even helped me to find some pretty good friends, while allowing me to figure out more about our new campus (Southern Polytechnic University, which officially merged with KSU this year and is now called the KSU Marietta Campus).

"Although I was hoping to study abroad this summer, I decided to look at doing that as well as an internship in the next few years. This summer I am going take two classes, one in the May Summer Session

and another in June, so that I can finish some general education classes. It may not be the most exciting, but I figured I would see how smoothly summer classes go so that I can make a decision about future summers sessions. The bad thing is that despite the fact that Hope/Zell Miller pays for tuition for summer sessions, the rest of the housing and meal fees, among others, come out of pocket, so scholarships are still vital for me to continue my studies. Therefore, this may be my first and last opportunity for summer classes.

"I do, however, want to say thank you to the Watson-Brown Foundation, for without them I would not have been able to experience not only a challenging and exciting first year of college, but also complete my first fall and spring semesters debt free. Knowing that this is a renewable scholarship, I am able to focus on my current and future studies without the stress or worry of trying to figure out how to pay for a large part of my education, although additional financial assistance will still be required. Thanks again Watson-Brown Foundation for your involvement in me and my desire to become a Fire/Arson Investigator."



EMILY BEGGS

**Emily Beggs**, Georgia College and State University, Junior: "Last year I was very disappointed in myself because I felt that I got too bogged down in the books and did not get enjoy the extracurricular activities that I enjoyed in high school. This year, I was able to make all A's and was able to involve myself in GCSU's musical theatre

program. It was so refreshing to be back in musical theatre. I felt more involved with my school, I made new friends, and I was going back to what I love doing.

"I also continued working as a piano accompanist for Hope Lutheran Church. Not only did working there help me earn some income, but I also strengthened my musical skills and my relationship with kind people.

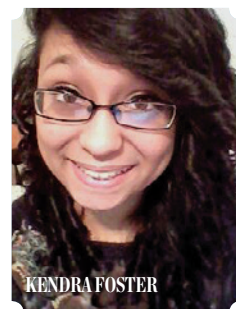
"I also learned more about my major: music therapy. I co-lead sessions at an educational program for children with emotional-behavioral disorder, and I worked with a life-enrichment center for older adults that have developmental disabilities. My fall semester I started to question my major, but thanks to my experiences with clinicals in the spring, I realized that music therapy was definitely what I wanted. I love how music therapy looks at a person as an individual and figures out what his or her important needs are and uses music to help them. I feel like it was a stressful, fun, and rewarding year."

### **Kendra Foster,**

Converse College,  
Sophomore:

"College has, thus far, turned out to be a lot less frightening than I assumed it would be. I've had the chance to meet some incredible

people and establish wonderful friendships. I have also managed to ace each of my classes, make the Dean's list, and maintain a 4.0 GPA. Most important, I have really learned more about myself and what I want regarding my future. Thanks to this learning experience, I now know that pursuing a BFA in Studio Art and possibly going on to earn an MFA in grad school is my main course of action. I couldn't be happier for myself or for my prospective future. Cheers to three more successful years!"



KENDRA FOSTER



# WES COOPER



## Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RL HODNETT PHOTOGRAPHY



**W**es Cooper is a numbers guy. So you'd expect that, like a tidy equation, his education (he's a University of Georgia Terry College graduate) and past employment (he worked as an accountant and middle school math teacher) would add up to a career filled with balance sheets and calculators.

You'd be wrong.

Instead, as founder and CEO of Athens-based Southern Athlete, a strength-and-conditioning operation geared toward high school athletes, Wes computes the angle that hips turn in a baseball swing, the increment of weight bench-pressed over the course of six months, or the distance covered in a sprint, down to the decimal point. "Numbers don't lie," he says, spoken like a true economics major. And yet, his bottom line for everyone is the same: "The goal is to pursue greatness and whatever form that takes, and it doesn't have to be collegiate sports. Greatness is something that should be pervasive to life: to be a great student, teammate, brother, son. If they understand that and keep their head on straight, we've succeeded."

His philosophy highlights a main difference between him and his competitors. "There are people out there who take people's







money, and the kids have no shot unless they dramatically improve,” he says. “The emphasis is athleticism but not character. The tragedy is too often kids can fall to the wayside because of bad decision-making.” That’s why Wes spends time with his clients between reps talking about their families and their goals. If they mention that they want to be an engineer, Wes connects them with an engineer for them to talk to or shadow. He says, “I want them to know that if they train three or four years and then decide not to play in college, that’s OK. As long as they follow their passion.”

After all, Wes’s passion, while always evident in his love of competitive sports, took a few different forms before he began Southern Athlete in 2012. After graduation from UGA, he moved back to his hometown of Augusta and worked at his parent’s accounting firm. During this time, he began working towards his master’s degree in education from Georgia Regents University and taught and coached in the Richmond County school system. “I’ve always looked for the potential in people and enjoyed helping them get to where they wanted to go,” he says.

It was while coaching at Richmond Academy that Wes began offering free training sessions on Sunday night. Every week, without fail, the same young football player would

*“I am incredibly grateful for Watson-Brown. The scholarship was invaluable and it gave me the freedom to explore campus activities.”*



show up. They continued to work together over the summer, and by the next fall, Wes recalls, “you couldn’t not see the results on the field.” It was around this time that he began to seriously pursue forming his own business, filing for an LLC, determining a logo, and fine-tuning his brand to be sure it delivered his message, all while continuing to coach and finish his master’s. “I slept very little,” he jokes.

Five years later, his afternoons and evenings are spent training clients, while the rest of his day is spent editing highlight reels or brushing up on the ACT/SAT curriculum so that he can make sure he stays on top of — and shares — what schools are looking for. If all that wasn’t enough, he’s also part of a start-up software company, ICHOR, which gathers the data from wearable sports accessories (such as Fitbits) and creates a dashboard monitor for athletes looking for an analytical understanding of their workouts and progress. The online frontier is one Wes plans on crossing with Southern Athlete, as well. “I’d like to be able to do more online and remote training,” he says.

You get the sense that when Wes tells his clients to balance their big dreams with the reality of hard work, he’s speaking from experience. After all, the numbers don’t lie, and his success is the proof.









# CARVING SMART



BY BARBARA HYDE

**W**hat do May Patterson Goodrum Abreu — Atlanta’s 1943 Woman of the Year — and woodworking craftsman Shawn Smart from Trinidad have in common? A love of beautiful objects! When May began furnishing her newly-built English-Regency-style Buckhead mansion in 1931, she turned to Edith Hills, a prominent Atlanta interior decorator, for advice. Edith, with her wonderful eye for stately English antiques, steered May toward an eclectic combination of Chippendale and Hepplewhite furniture, Asian *objets d’art*, and flourishes of French Rococo-inspired lighting fixtures. Yet today, not all of May’s collection, many items of which were purchased on jaunts with family and friends around the world, survives intact in Goodrum House. Some pieces, like the three-tiered crystal chandelier and foyer wall sconces, were still in the house when it was purchased by the Watson-Brown Foundation in 2009, while others are still owned by members of the Abreu family, and still others were simply lost. Luckily, the home was photographed for *Architecture* magazine in 1932, preserving May and Edith’s original design decisions.



Eighty years later, Shawn Smart entered the scene. A native of Trinidad with what he calls a “God-given passion for woodcarving,” Shawn was inspired by the traditional carpentry techniques used in the British Colonial homes of his native island. Today, he is working as the lead carpenter on the restoration of Goodrum House. Armed with his personal collection of 450 antique English chisels, he works just as woodcarvers have for centuries. Among other projects throughout the house, he carved two new sconces for the foyer to match the two surviving fixtures, which, as we know from the *Architecture* magazine photographs, had originally been part of a set of four. After measuring the extant sconces, he produced detailed drawings of both the right and left originals and then transferred the designs to single blocks of African mahogany wood using a carbon transfer method. The next step was the painstaking process of carving the pieces themselves. In his soft Caribbean lilt, he relates why he chose to use this particular material. “I chose it because it’s a really durable wood and for its ability to hold fine details. These sconces should last forever, whether they’re used inside or out.” When asked how many hours he put in to producing these two objects, he said, “I don’t know! I tried to keep track, but I





*“Each carver has his own signature, like handwriting. I could tell that even though these two sconces look identical, they are not.”*



should have been better about it!” His examination of the sconces also yielded some clues about how the originals were produced. “Each carver has his own signature, like handwriting. I could tell that even though these two sconces look identical, they are not. They were definitely carved by two different hands. There was no machine work done on these.” The rich gold patina finishing the works will be left to Chip Miller and Steve Tillander, conservators with Restoration Craftsmen. “We’ll use a special gold powder paint typically used to finish burial caskets,” says Chip. “It will perfectly match the coloration on the two original sconces.”

While Shawn is currently working on the pavilion at Goodrum House, he continues to pursue his own artistic projects, producing large scale high-relief carvings. “I like to call myself a craftsman instead of a carpenter,” he states. In bringing Goodrum House back to life, the Watson-Brown Foundation is thrilled to work with extraordinary specialists like Shawn, whose dedication to understanding the decorative arts of the past help recreate a world we now know only in photographs, preserving May Goodrum’s vision for sophisticated living for generations to come.





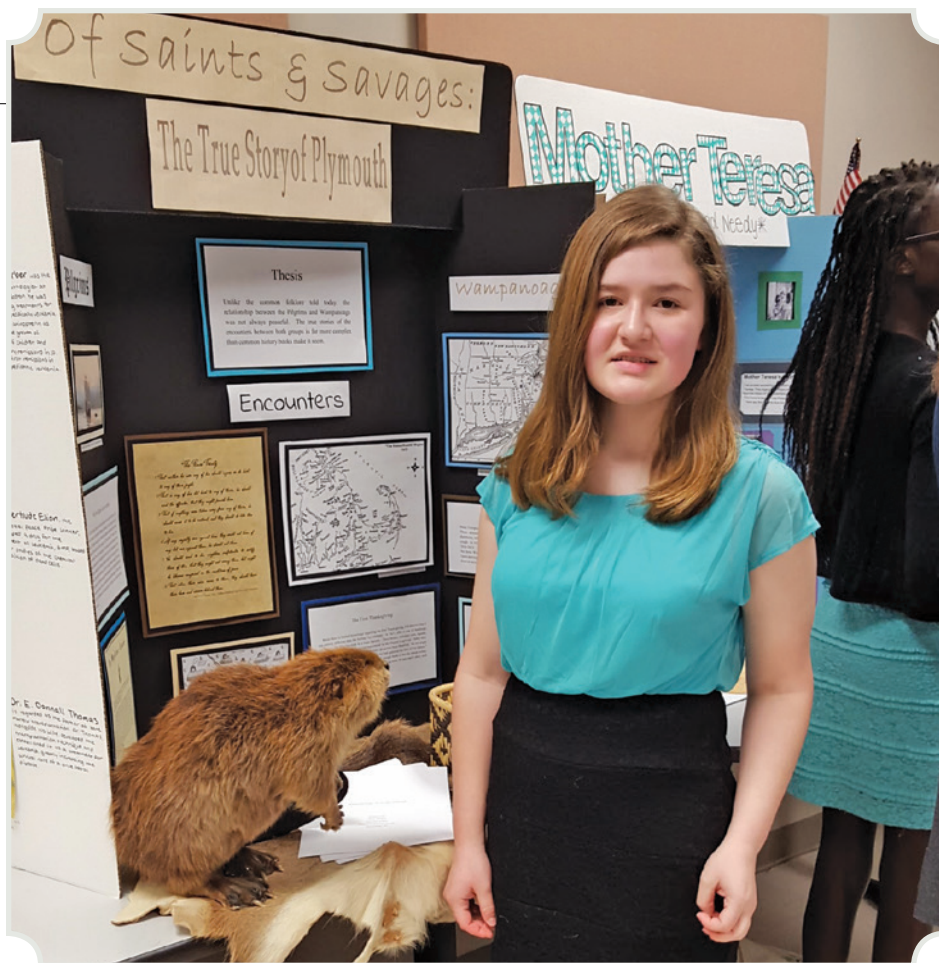


# MUSEUMS & NATIONAL HISTORY DAY



## Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE L. ZUPAN



National History Day (NHD) was created in 1974 by a professor at Case Western Reserve University to combat the decline of the humanities in school curricula. It evolved into annual nationwide competitions held at the regional, state, and national levels with middle and high school competitors creating papers and projects on a designated theme — the competitions are designed to give great weight to historical accuracy and the use of primary sources. Today, thousands of students from every US state, Guam, and America Samoa participate each year in the categories of research paper, exhibit, Web site, documentary, and performance. Students may work individually or in a group of up to five people. They will compete in a junior (middle school) or senior (high school) division. Students come from public, private, and home schools. The goal is to reach the annual competition at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Most of the competitors at NHD are coached by history teachers at their schools. Home school students often rely on their parents for guidance.



*“We aspire ... to coach our fellow museum professionals  
to take on coaching as a value-added service  
to their communities.”*



This year the staff of Hickory Hill was asked by a home school parent to coach her 6th grader for the competition. We sent out notes to the educators who work with us frequently to invite their students to form a team. Ultimately, three young ladies completed projects for competition — Madison, home school, in Junior Individual Websites, Jasmine, Evans Middle School, in Junior Individual Performance, and Holland, home school, in Senior Individual Exhibits. The 2016 theme was Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.

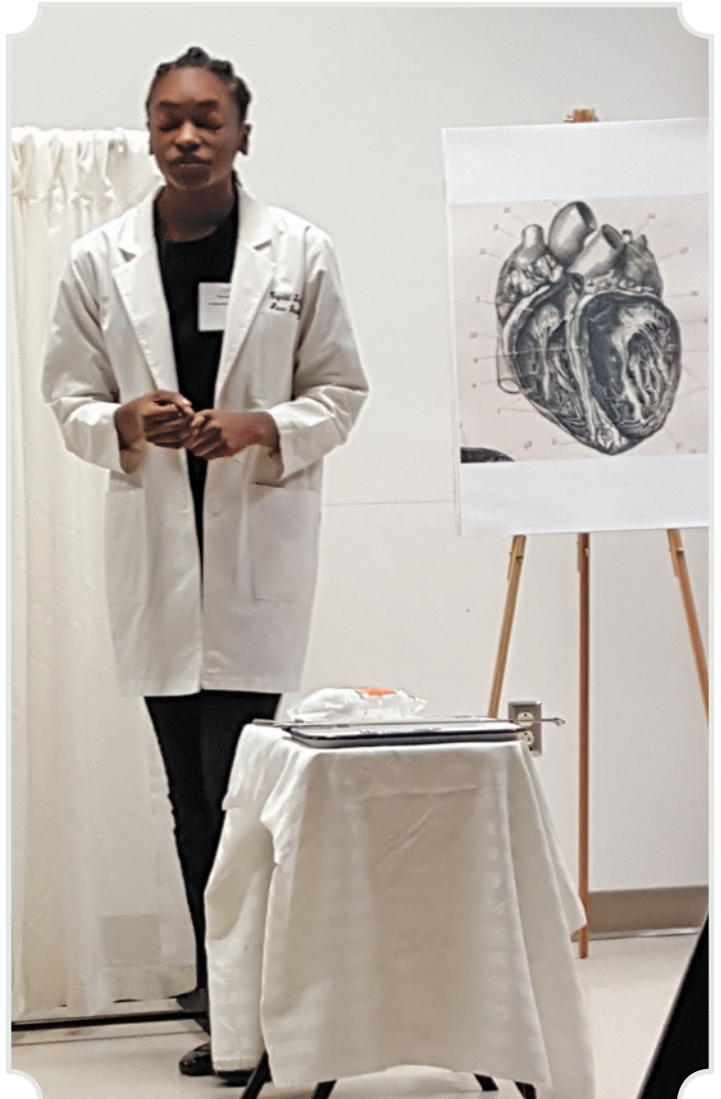
We spent hours with each of the students helping them identify locations for strong primary sources, learning to analyze those sources, and editing bibliographies and process papers. Happily, there was not a Wikipedia entry in sight! The young ladies wowed the judges and took Firsts in each of their divisional categories!

It is curious why more museums and historic sites do not become involved in coaching NHD teams. Museums, after all, are the repositories of millions of primary sources from documents to photos to sound recordings and artifacts — why not encourage the younger generations to utilize the collections? We aspire to change that oversight and to coach our fellow museum professionals to take on coaching as a value-added service to their communities.

According to the NHD Web site, competing students have even changed history. Three 16-year-old students in Illinois produced a group documentary on the murders of three Civil Rights workers in Mississippi in 1964.

This led the U.S. Congress to pass a bipartisan resolution calling on federal prosecutors to reopen the high profile case. Because of these students' exhaustive research — reviewing more than 2,000 documents and conducting dozens of interviews — more than forty years later, in 2005, the FBI's original prime suspect, Edgar Ray Killen was finally arrested, tried, and convicted of murdering James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman.

We may not change history, but our students hope to, once again, put Thomson, Georgia, on the NHD map as a bastion for the humanities.







left to right: Jasmine, Madison, Holland

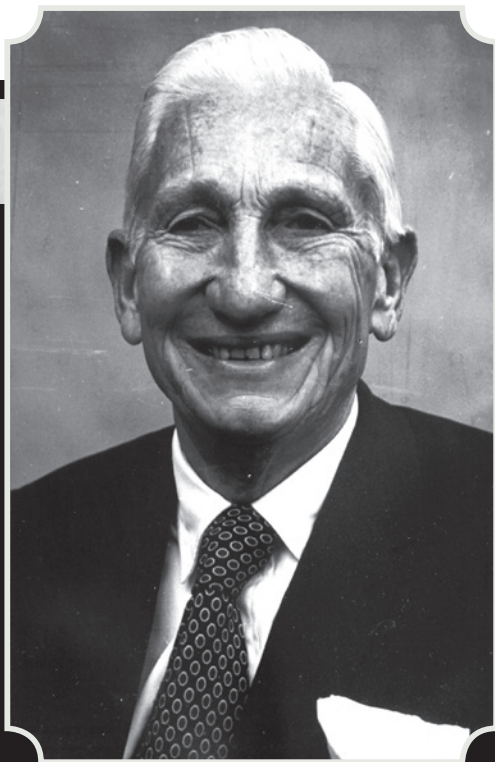




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Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.