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*All these years, Charity, that I was in you, crystal dazzling in the radiant shell of mornings, east going over and over you, reflecting everything and wondering, I never said anything, but only waited for some speech, that the breath of the house was breathing into me. –The House of Breath, by William Goyen*

### **Literary East Texas: A Humanities Texas Exhibit Returns Home**

[Commerce, Texas]—Beginning February 21, 2011, at the Hall of Languages at Texas A&M-Commerce, the Converging Literacies Center (CLiC @ Texas A&M-Commerce) will present **“Literary East Texas: An Exhibition of Photographs Honoring 25 East Texas Writers,”** a Humanities Texas exhibition with an origin story that has deep East Texas roots. Support for “Literary East Texas” was provided in part by a grant from Humanities Texas.

Honoring 25 of the more than 200 writers who have called East Texas home, this program brings together passages from their works with photographs taken especially for this exhibition. Project created by Dr. Fred Tarpley, Professor Emeritus of Texas A&M-Commerce, in collaboration with project co-director and photographer Nell Blakely, also of Texas A&M-Commerce (retired) for Humanities Texas when A&M-C was still ET (East Texas State University).

As the creators explain in the booklet accompanying the exhibition, “the photographer and project director . . . traveled more than 4000 miles [and took] more than 1600 images. The variety of East Texas fiction provided scenes from the Red River through the Piney Woods to the Gulf Coast, of oil, cotton, and urban settings. Often there was a disappointment of learning that a building used for the setting of a novel had been razed, but occasionally a substitute could be found that matched descriptions of the original. . . . *The goals Literary East Texas are to encourage readers to discover and rediscover writers of the region, to match the words of these authors with photographs of the people and landscape described, and to honor representative writers of the region*” (Tarpley and Blakely).

Panel topics include J. Mason Brewer, Siddie Joe Johnson, William Goyen, William Owens, William Humphrey, Thomas Thompson, Francis E. Abernethy, Suzanne Morris, Madison Cooper, Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey, William Brammer, Leon Hale, Jewel Gibson, and Frank X. Tolbert.

The exhibition will be available to the public from (February 21, 2011) to (March 31, 2011).

According to project director Shannon Carter (Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M-Commerce), several additional Humanities Texas exhibits will be on display in Commerce, including “Behold the People: R. C. Hickman’s Photographs of Black Dallas, 1949–1961” (at Commerce City Hall) and “Jasper, Texas: The Healing of a Community in Crisis” (Gee Library, Texas A&M-Commerce). The fourth exhibit, “Images of Valor: U.S. Latinos and Latinas of World War II,” will be on display at the Audie Murphy Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas. All exhibits will be free and open to the public from 2/21/2011 until 3/31/2011. Carter is Co-Director of CLiC.

For more information about viewing hours visit CLiC online at <http://convergingliteraciescenter.wordpress.com/>

Humanities Texas develops and supports diverse programs across the state, including lectures, oral history projects, teacher institutes, museum exhibitions and documentary films. For more information, please visit Humanities Texas online at <http://www.humanitiestexas.org> or call 512.440.1991.

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