

## MAST GRA Faculty Projects 2009-2010

### **B**unce Island Exhibit Dr. Dan Paracka

The Bunce Island Exhibit enhances Georgia's middle and high school American and World History curriculum through a traveling exhibit of 20-door-sized panels and a film containing images and text connecting Bunce Island's history and the African Diaspora. It builds on the successful January 2009 teacher enrichment workshop (co-sponsored by the Georgia Humanities Council) that provided teachers and schools with the necessary background to tell the story of Bunce Island in Sierra Leone and its extensive legacy of connections to coastal Georgia and South Carolina.



#### **The Graduate Research Assistant will contribute to the:**

- Development of a database of teachers/schools participating in the project.
- Compilation of mailing addresses for schools to schedule future exhibitions.
- Creation of a website for the KSU Bunce Island Project to supplement the physical exhibit and film.
- Collection and organization of lesson plans and curricular materials used by schools that have hosted the exhibit.
- Coordination of an exhibit schedule and the management of the movement of the exhibit to host schools.



### **P**oe & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Fiction - Dr. Emron Esplin

This project offers a comparative analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's affinities and influence with twentieth-century Spanish American writers. Following an inter-American studies approach, the project contributes to a larger, book-length endeavor that requires extensive research in Argentina, Mexico, and Texas.

#### **The Graduate Research Assistant will:**

- Research *The International Poe Bibliography* and the internet to search for relevant titles of books influenced by Poe released within the last three years.
- Run a citation check on "Renaming Poe in Spanish America," a paper to be presented at the Poe Studies Conference in Philadelphia in October 2009.
- Provide side-by-side readings with the faculty member of Julio Cortázar's translations of Poe's complete fictional works, looking for minor and major changes.

The graduate assistant will learn how a faculty member designs and conducts a major research project that includes several research trips, archival study, comparative literary analysis, and close reading. This project will provide an inside view of some of the smaller steps—conference presentations, plenary addresses, and journal articles--involved with producing a scholarly book.

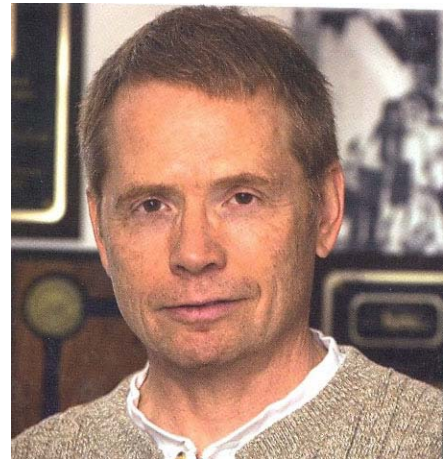
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### **E**ducation of Mayan Families in Canton Dr. Alan LeBaron

The core of this project is the goal of discovering the reasons behind poor academic performance by Maya students is part of the KSU Maya Heritage Community Project created in 2002. This period of research will be followed by a program of action to promote Maya success in the Canton schools.

#### **The Graduate Research Assistant will:**

- Become familiar with Maya immigration issues in Georgia.
- Conduct research that will be included in a book of essays entitled *Education of Maya Families* to promote meaningful change and to become a model for a larger program addressing immigration issues in schools.
- Integrate with the team of several Mayan leaders, the research families, and attend weekly meetings which include opportunities to educate the Maya about the US law, health and customs and educate the communities about modern Maya culture.
- Cooperate with the returning Peace Corps students currently involved with the KSU Maya Heritage Community Project, teach and do special tutoring of the Mayan children.



### **O**akland Cemetery Dr. Catherine Lewis

The goal of the Oakland Cemetery project is to discover and interpret African American life in a cross-disciplinary manner and to bring history to a broad and diverse public through multiple delivery methods, such as onsite exhibits, the web, and via cell phones audio tours. This particular aspect of the project will be completed in partnership with the Auburn Avenue Research Library, the

Atlanta History Center and the Atlanta University Center.

#### **The Graduate Research Assistant will contribute to the:**

- Research of new technologies and draft and audio tour script for cell phone-based audio tours of the African American portion of the cemetery.
- Research and curate a 10-panel exhibition on the history of Oakland Cemetery.
- Drafting of text for a 10-panel exhibit to be installed at Oakland. This text will also appear on the Foundation's website.
- Selection of photographs and artifacts for inclusion in the exhibit.
- Review of the Georgia Performance Standards as they relate to K-12 curriculum to research and write three lesson plans for the Oakland Cemetery Foundation for use by schools to promote engage in a dialogue about African American life in the South.