

Alabama Writers Symposium



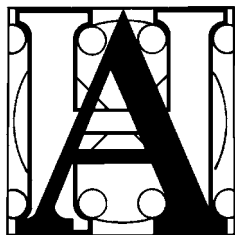
Literary Gumbo
Songs, stories and
characters that flavor
Alabama literature



May 5-7, 2011
Monroeville, Alabama



2011 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar



A L A B A M A
H U M A N I T I E S
F O U N D A T I O N

The annual Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar recognizes and rewards Alabamians who have distinguished themselves as men or women of letters, specifically in scholarly reflection and writing on literary topics. Given each year at the Alabama Writers Symposium, hosted by Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville, the award reflects the respect of the scholar's peers in the academic community and signals to the citizenry at large the lasting importance of the pursuit of knowledge and of the contribution of literature to the culture. Annual selection of the recipient of the award is the task of the Association of College

English Teachers of Alabama (ACETA), a diverse organization representing faculty at all of Alabama's two-year, four-year and doctoral institutions.

Name of the Award: In a distinguished academic career spanning more than five decades, Dr. Eugene Current-Garcia published six books and dozens of articles and reviews on the short story genre and on American literature, particularly Old Southwest humor. His honors include serving as a Ford Foundation Fellow at Princeton in 1953-54, holding the Chair of American Literature as Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece, 1956-58, and being selected First American Scholar by Phi Kappa Phi in 1974. During a long teaching career at Auburn, he founded and co-edited the Southern Humanities Review, a major research publication. His high standards of scholarship and stellar achievements provide a model by which recipients of the annual award can be judged.

Criteria for Selection: Those eligible for consideration are native Alabamians whose careers in literary scholarship have developed in Alabama or elsewhere; or those not originally from Alabama whose scholarly careers have developed in Alabama; or those briefly resident in Alabama whose literary scholarship has focused primarily on Alabama writers and topics. Only living scholars are eligible.

Presentation of the Award: Presentation of the award will be made by the Executive Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation or his/her designee. The Alabama Humanities Foundation presents the award as Alabama's principal advocate of scholarship in the literary arts.

Corporate Benefactor: This annual award includes a \$5,000 cash prize and The Clock Tower Bronze by Frank Fleming. This award is funded by George F. Landegger.



David Sauer

**Recipient of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for
Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2011**

David Sauer is Professor Emeritus at the Jesuit College of Spring Hill where he directed and taught in the English Department. His Ph.D. is in English from Indiana University, with a minor in Theatre, and his B.A. is from the University of Notre Dame.

Taught at Indiana University by John Hafner, and convinced of the wonders of Mobile long before going on the job market he was offered a position by John at Spring Hill College which remarkably combined his interests in both English and Theatre, allowing him to pursue both simultaneously. The result was a magical twenty-year run directing plays, and learning by doing.

When a young Jesuit arrived wishing to take over the theatre, David switched his attention from stage to page, becoming a publishing scholar. A number of National Endowment for the Humanities summer grants enabled him to retool for a new perspective on teaching drama through performance, particularly with Shakespeare, and to work with the Alabama Shakespeare Theatre. The result was publication of articles in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Shakespeare Yearbook*, and the MLA volume on *Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance*.

In 1992 he pursued American Drama following John Hafner's footsteps to Columbia to study American Drama with Howard Stein. As a result, he has published in *American Drama*, *Modern Drama*, and *Shaw* as well as a variety of other journals.

With his wife he has worked on all the issues of the *David Mamet Review*, doing an annual bibliography as well as writing *David Mamet: A Resource and Production Sourcebook* with her. In 2009 he published David Mamet's *Oleanna*, a Continuum Modern Theatre Guide for Teachers and Students. In addition, he and Jan have published in the *Cambridge Companions to David Mamet* and *August Wilson*. He is President of the David Mamet Society.

In 2009 he was granted the honor of Professor Emeritus at Spring Hill College though he went on teaching beyond retirement. His most recent book, *American Drama and the Postmodern: Fracturing the Realistic Stage* is about to be published by Cambria Press.

He is currently working on a book on David Mamet as Chicago's Playwright, and will present a paper and moderate a panel of actors and directors who worked with Mamet from the outset in Chicago May 15, 2011.