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2007-2008 Draughon Seminars in State and Local History

William Bartram, First Scientist of Alabama

Lectures by Dr. John C. Hall

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University is pleased to announce its 2007-2008 Draughon Seminars in State and Local History.

The seminars are general interest talks offered free of charge to libraries, schools and other public groups. This year's programs feature Dr. John C. Hall, educator and museum professional, who will discuss 18th-century naturalist William Bartram. Bartram's eloquent descriptions and detailed illustrations of the native inhabitants and unspoiled natural environment were published in 1791 in *Bartram's Travels*, a book Hall terms "one of the most important documents of American science and the first book of Alabama natural history." Hall's talks will emphasize what Bartram saw on his journeys through Alabama in 1775.

Hall is founding curator at the Black Belt Regional Museum at the University of West Alabama, a regional museum relating to the arts, culture and natural history of the Black Belt. He was associated for many years with the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History as research associate, director of interpretation and assistant director for natural history, and has served as executive director of the Alabama Museums Association.

The illustrated lecture will be of interest to those interested in Alabama colonial and frontier history, Indian history, natural history and gardening. The lectures are offered free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis to libraries, schools, local history and heritage organizations and other community groups in the state.

The Draughon Seminar series is an annual offering that brings new research in Alabama history to public audiences. The series is funded by the Kelly Mosley Endowment in honor of Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, president of Auburn University from 1947 to 1965. Draughon was a historian with a deep commitment to both state history and public education.

For more information or to schedule a program, contact the center at (334)844-4946 or draughonsem@auburn.edu, or visit the center's Web site at www.auburn.edu/cah.