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National Symposium on Author/Critic Albert Murray Scheduled for January

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, in cooperation with Tuskegee University, will hold a symposium this January to celebrate the life and works of Alabama native and Tuskegee graduate Albert Murray.

To be held Jan. 23, 2008, at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center, the symposium will bring together scholars and protégés of Murray's work. Nationally acclaimed Ralph Ellison scholar and editor of *Trading Twelves: The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray*, Dr. John F. Callahan of Lewis and Clark College, will give a keynote address at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to attend both the symposium and the lecture, but those interested are asked to register online at www.auburn.edu/cah.

Murray is considered by many to be a pivotal figure in American literature and culture. His works include *The Omni-Americans: New Perspectives on Black Experience and American Culture*, *South to a Very Old Place*, *The Hero and the Blues* and *Train Whistle Guitar*. A leading light in jazz and the blues, Murray was co-founder with Wynton Marsalis of Jazz at Lincoln Center. He received the Distinguished Artist Award from the Alabama State Council on the Arts in 2003.

"Al Murray is a singular voice in American culture, art, and music," notes CMD CAH director Jay Lamar, "and we are pleased that the conference will be held in the state that has exerted such imaginative and critical force on his writings."

For more information on the symposium, go to www.auburn.edu/cah or call 334-844-4946.

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