

Tenth Anniversary Symposium

The State of Southern Food

October 25-28, 2007





Welcome to the 10th Southern Foodways Symposium!

We are delighted to have you with us for this very special occasion, marking a milestone in the history of the Southern Foodways Alliance. We hope you enjoy the wealth of resources and knowledge we have convened.

For the past ten years, SFA'ers—eaters, writers, chefs, farmers, artisans, and scholars --- have joined together at our annual symposium to discuss, challenge, listen, cry, laugh, argue, deconstruct, define, propose, celebrate, mourn, dance, watch, reconcile, and eat and drink every possible crumb and drop of Southern food and drink.

During these years, the SFA has become the country's most respected and effective organization devoted to American regional foods.

With your support and the leadership of our talented staff and dedicated board of directors, we have stabilized our funding, hired three new staff members, founded an oral history program and a complementary film program, and expanded year-round event offerings throughout the South.

We have, in short, grown the SFA into a robust organization, while remaining true to our core mission as we document and celebrate the diverse food culture of the American South.

The SFA is indebted to our sponsors and to the many individuals listed on the front page of your symposium brochure. Special thanks go to Mary Beth Lasseter, Melissa Hall, Amy Evans, Joe York, Andy Harper, Matthew Graves, Micah Ginn, and the faculty and graduate students of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi for their long hours of planning this symposium.

We are also grateful to presenters, participants, and awardees who traveled from around the globe to be with us. Have a wonderful weekend, and please let me know if you have comments, questions, or concerns.

Best regards,
Marcie Cohen Ferris, president, SFA Board of Directors

Welcome to Oxford and the University of Mississippi,

We're honored that you chose to join us for the 10th Southern Foodways Symposium. Your packet contains an updated schedule and biography roster as well as various and sundry readings. Enjoy.

A few things to keep in mind:

* So that we may keep track of our guests, and our guests can get to know one another, please wear your nametag to all events. It will serve as your entrance ticket.

* The symposium is volunteer-run. Without graduate students and undergraduates from the University of Mississippi, we could not serve you with such aplomb.

* For those of you fixed on getting caffeine fixes, know that Java City, on the first floor of the Library, on the Lyceum side, opens at 7:00 on Friday. We will, as scheduled, serve Cokes and peanuts on Saturday morning. (We'll also have a coffee urn perking.) During Friday and Saturday afternoon sessions, we'll offer iced tea (and water.)

--Your SFA Staff