



Literary Legacies of Macon County and Tuskegee Institute: Zora Neale Hurston, Ralph Ellison, and Albert Murray



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Few places can lay claim to three literary artists who were instrumental in the Harlem Renaissance, Modernism, and cultural theory, all pivotal movements in American literature. However, Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama, can make this claim. Zora Neale Hurston, Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray all have ties to this region. In fact, the geographic location of the South is significant in all their works as a contested space to consider race, identity, and home.



No, he couldn't leave Notasulga, where the train came puffing into the depot twice a day. No! No!



When I discover who I am, I'll be free.



The blues is not the creation of a crushed-spirited people. It is the product of a forward looking, upward-striving people.

	Zora Neale Hurston	Ralph Ellison	Albert Murray
Selected Works	Jonah's Gourde Vine Their Eyes Were Watching God Dust Tracks on A Road Barracoon	The Invisible Man (<i>The Omni-Americans</i>
Grant Focus	Workshop, Birthplace, Quilt Exhibit, Book Signing, Course Enhancements	Workshops,	"Boa Noite" (Good Night)
Connection to Tuskegee	Born in Notasulga in 1891. Visited Tuskegee in 1926.	Attended Tuskegee. Alluded to in his works	Attended Tuskegee. Mentioned in his works

Conclusions:

The two-year project will include the following activities: (1) Digital humanities portal (see below) which will include a variety of resources, such as archival documents, teaching materials, and student projects on the three authors. This work will be done with the help of our library faculty, consultants, and student worker; (2) Curriculum enrichment of existing English and History courses and the development of a new humanities course, HUMN 200; (3) Student-faculty research projects intended to produce scholarly papers at the research symposium scheduled towards the end of the project; (4) Two faculty workshops on the three authors with consultants, followed by a half-day workshop on Ellison and Murray's friendship for faculty participants and for area high school humanities teachers. Project Director and Co-Directors will lead workshop and provide course materials based on the enhanced course syllabi, lecture notes, and TU digital archives; and (5) Community engagement with the three authors through artistic renditions such as a quilt exhibit and jazz concert, and a symposium devoted to the three writers which will be opened to the public.