

## INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP BIOS

### Performing Arts – Music Composition: Folk/Gospel/Jazz/Pop

**Charles L. (Charley) Sandage** of Mountain View is a singer/songwriter, performer, recording artist, music producer and educator. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree in social studies education from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, a Master of Arts degree in speech from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a Doctor of Education degree in college administration from the UA. Sandage was the first program director at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View and he performs his music at the Center today. Now retired, he writes songs and produces CDs as part of the Arkansas Stories project, which features original and traditional music. He has also worked as a public school classroom teacher and administrator, a college level classroom teacher at Henderson State University and the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, academic dean at Arkansas State University in Beebe and distance learning coordinator at Ozarka College in Melbourne.

**Rachel Brick aka Rachel Fields** of Fayetteville is an award-winning singer/songwriter, recording artist, freelance writer and owner of Ozark Mountain Records and Brick Fields Music. She attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, where she earned an Associate Degree in musical theater. She is an honorary inductee into the international “Divas Blues Project.” Brick has toured internationally and has released three albums since 2009. She is a supporter and participant in the “Blues in The Schools” program. She is also a member of the Arkansas Arts Council's Arts on Tour Artist Roster.

**Derrick K. Gibbs** of Benton is a classically-trained vocalist, recording artist, film and music producer, instrumentalist, actor and music instructor. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration/marketing with a minor in music education and sound recording technology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Gibbs is the minister of music at Second Baptist Church in Little Rock. Prior to this position, he was associate minister of music at St. Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock and music instructor at Second Baptist Christian Academy and at the Sound Factory Recording & School of Music, both in Little Rock.

### Visual Arts – Painting

**Dustyn John Bork** of Batesville is an award-winning printmaker and an associate professor of art at Lyon College in Batesville. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from Indiana University in Bloomington and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His work has been featured in more than 80 solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. He has juried a number of exhibitions and competitions throughout the United States and has won numerous awards from state, national and international institutions. His work is in the permanent collections of the Franz Masereel Center in Kasterlee, Belgium; Hunterdon

Museum of Art in Clinton, New Jersey; and the Royal Museum of Antwerp, Belgium. In addition, he has taught art classes in Arkansas, Ohio and Michigan.

**Heidi Carlsen-Rogers** of Bella Vista is an abstract painter. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in advertising from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Her work has been exhibited throughout Northwest Arkansas, including the "WomanMade: NWA" exhibition at the Story Gallery in Bentonville, "Modern Organic" at Bentonville Convention and Visitors Bureau Gallery and "Boundless Color: Pure Expression" at the Arts Center of the Ozarks in Springdale. Her work is also featured in private collections throughout the country. She is a volunteer gallery guide at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville.

**Steve Spencer** of Little Rock is a painter, writer, video and web editor, photographer and music producer. He earned a Master of Arts degree in cinema/television at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, a Master of Business Administration degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and a Bachelor of Public Administration degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He is sole proprietor of Spinaramic Vision in Little Rock, where he writes, shoots and edits videos for television and the web, as well as providing photography and radio production. Spencer was named the Jazz Visual Artist of the Year for *Jazz Colours* magazine, and he was a featured visual artist in *Spitball* magazine.

## Literary Arts – Poetry

**Megan Blankenship** of Little Rock is an award-winning poet, published author and writing instructor. She is an advertising assistant at the *Arkansas Times*. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and creative writing from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She is the recipient of the Meridian Editors' Prize in Poetry for her poem "Fantasy," which was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She received the Walton Family Fellowship in poetry, a Master of Fine Arts/Doctorate scholarship to attend the Sewanee Writers' Conference at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., and the Katherine Bakeless Nason Fellowship to attend Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writer's Conference. Her work has been published in numerous literary journals.

**Renee Emerson** of Jonesboro is an award-winning poet, published author and writing instructor. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. She is the recipient of The Helen C. Blythe Creative Writing Award, Academy of American Poets Prize, Southern Festival of Books, and she was a featured reader for Lee University's Poetry Reading Series. She has authored four books: "Keeping Me Still," which was a finalist for the Jacar Press Julie Suk Book Award, "Something Like Flight," "The Whitest Sheets" and "Where Nothing Can Grow." Her work has been published in numerous literary journals.

**H.K. Hummel** of Little Rock is an award-winning poet, published author and writing instructor. She is an assistant professor of creative writing at University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a faculty advisor for *Equinox Literary Magazine* and advisory editor for *Blood Orange Review Literary Journal*. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry at University of Southern Maine in Portland, a Master of Arts degree in English Literature at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with an emphasis in poetry at the University of California in Davis. She was a semi-finalist for the Brittingham and Pollak Poetry Prize; nominated by *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment* for the Best of the Net award; and she has received multiple grants. She has won residencies in Ireland and Australia, as well as Montana and Washington. Her works have been published in numerous literary journals.