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A MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH

Ryan Harris named Executive Director of the Oxford American Literary Project

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – The Oxford American Literary Project, the non-profit organization that publishes the *Oxford American* magazine, is proud to announce the appointment of **Ryan Harris** as Executive Director. Ray Wittenberg, an Oxford American Literary Project staff member for more than a decade, will help guide the organization during the transition and serve as Associate Publisher.

“Ryan, who has already made a significant contribution to the cultural quality of life here in our community with his work as Program Director, brings just the right skill set to the challenge of leading our organization,” said Wittenberg. “I look forward to watching the *Oxford American* flourish.”

Harris, who joined the Oxford American Literary Project in February 2013 as Program Director, has helped establish regular programs at South on Main (the restaurant and cultural venue owned and operated by Matthew and Amy Bell in Little Rock, Arkansas) and in the *Oxford American*'s annex space. Along with free outreach programming to support local and regional musicians, writers, and visual artists, Harris has brought both renowned and emerging artists to Little Rock through the ticketed Oxford American Concert Series. The experiences created through this series have helped enhance the cultural offerings in the region and established South on Main as a desirable stop for touring artists.

“I’m excited about the chance to contribute to the *Oxford American* in a bigger way,” said Harris. “We have a loyal subscriber base, a passionate, hard-working staff, and an established history of excellent storytelling, music curation, and event creation. There’s a real opportunity for the *OA* to blossom in the coming years, using our twenty-fifth anniversary in 2017 as a catalyst for innovative editorial projects and ambitious fundraising. To get there, we must continue to publish exceptional work, build smart relationships, and be both strategic and nimble in adapting to change in the ever-shifting landscape of print media and nonprofit management.”

Oxford American editor Eliza Borné said, “Ryan is a smart, kind, and visionary leader. He’s already shown a knack for creative programming and development. I know he will guide our organization to ongoing success.”

Prior to joining the Oxford American Literary Project, Harris served as Director of Facilities and Event Operations at The Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries, a nonprofit arts presenter in St. Louis, Missouri. He holds a BSBA from the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

The *Oxford American* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. Billed as “A Magazine of the South,” it has won three National Magazine Awards and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The magazine has featured the original work of such literary powerhouses as Charles Portis, Roy Blount, Jr., ZZ Packer, Donald Harington, Donna Tartt, Ernest J. Gaines, and many other distinguished authors, while also discovering and launching the most promising writers in the region. The magazine has also published previously unseen work by such Southern masters as William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Walker Percy, James Agee, Zora Neale Hurston, James Dickey, and Carson McCullers, to name just a handful. In 2007, *The New York Times* stated that the *Oxford American* “may be the liveliest literary magazine in America.” *Oxford American* is committed to the development of young individuals aspiring to work in the publishing industry, and to the production and presentation of multidisciplinary arts events in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. The *Oxford American* is published from the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.