



S.C. Hall of Fame Transcript

Dr. Walter B. Edgar

Dr. Walter Edgar...

scholar...

author...

teacher...

professor of history at the University of South Carolina since 1972...

interpreter of South Carolina and Southern culture...

not just in the classroom

but through books...

lectures...

radio...

and TV.

Walter Bellingrath Edgar was born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1943.

He received his BA. from Davidson College in 1965 and subsequently his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.

Edgar served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, including a year as an advisor in Vietnam.

Dr. Edgar has been the Claude Henry Neuffer Professor of Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina since 1995...

and is the Director of the Institute for Southern Studies..



Edgar has taught thousands of USC undergraduates and directed many graduate students in their studies.

Dr. Edgar was the founder and first Director of the Public History Program at USC, offering graduate level training in historic preservation, museum studies, and archival theory.

From The Letterbook of Robert Pringle in 1972 to his latest effort, The South Carolina Encyclopedia, Dr. Edgar's scholarship has been impeccable.

Besides editing these and other books, he has authored or co-authored many more, including The Governor's Mansion of the Palmetto State.

Edgar's acclaimed South Carolina: A History was the first comprehensive history of the state published in the last fifty years—described as “the history of South Carolina for this generation.”

For this monumental work along with his remarkable career of scholarship and teaching, Dr. Edgar was awarded South Carolina's Order of the Palmetto.

Edgar was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame in 2007.

He has also received honorary degrees and awards from many institutes of higher learning.

Dr. Edgar is a lifelong student of South Carolina and Southern history...

and shares his knowledge with a broad audience. He frequently lectures before civic, patriotic, cultural, and historical organizations...

as well as in schools and colleges throughout the state and nation.

He is the congenial host of a weekly radio series, Walter Edgar's Journal...

on South Carolina Public Radio.

Take on the South is a series of television debates...

produced for the Institute for Southern Studies by South Carolina ETV.

Dr. Edgar eagerly participates in history workshops for South Carolina teachers.



Edgar has advised governors of South Carolina on issues such as government restructuring and race relations.

Dr. Edgar's scholarly works have been cited in legal cases before the highest courts.

Dr. Edgar is an enthusiastic supporter of the South Carolina Historical Society.

Edgar is also active in his home community.

Dr. Edgar married fellow history grad student Betty Giles in 1966.

Their daughters are Eliza and Amelia.

Betty Edgar passed away in 2005 after a lengthy illness.

Dr. Edgar married Nela Danforth Gibbons in 2007...

and today has a blended family of four daughters and five grandchildren.

Dr. Walter Edgar is not only an effective scholar and teacher of South Carolina history, but he makes history accessible to every South Carolinian.

His enthusiasm is contagious...

his influence pervasive...

and his classroom is the whole state of South Carolina.

The Lightsey Society proudly welcomes Dr. Walter B. Edgar into the South Carolina Higher Education Hall of Fame!