



# Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

---

## ED BRIDGES

*Former Director, Alabama Department  
of Archives and History*

### ABOUT OUR GUEST

Ed Bridges grew up in Bainbridge, Georgia. He graduated from Furman University and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. While working on his Ph.D., he taught high school history, conducted contract historical research, and served as a part-time instructor at Georgia Tech. In 1976, he joined the Georgia Department of Archives and History, rising to the position of assistant director. In 1982, he was appointed director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. He served as its director for more than thirty years, helping foster a wide range of improvements.

In retirement, Ed continues to be actively involved in Alabama history. In 2016, he completed a general history of Alabama in entitled *Alabama: The Making of an American State*, published by the University of Alabama Press. He chaired the Advisory Committee of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, helping lead in planning and managing the state's three-year commemorations, which concluded on December 14, 2019. In 2017–2018, he served as interim director of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Ed continues to study and speak about Alabama history and works with groups and organizations across the state that are reflecting on how the past shaped who we are today. He and his wife Martha have three children and five grandchildren.

*Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
4:30 PM at Tuomey Hall*