

Stan Wagnon Registry of Honor 2008

Stan Wagnon was born and reared in Sheffield, Alabama, and was educated at Brewster Elementary, Willson Middle, and Sheffield High School, graduating in 1986. He continued his education at Mississippi State University, graduating from the School of Architecture in 1991 with the Henry Adams Medal. He trained in several Jackson, Mississippi area architectural firms, becoming licensed in 1994. During these years, Mr. Wagnon continued to nurture a keen interest in the rational and beautiful use of common, economical construction materials, rising out of the southern vernacular architecture creating the fabric of the agrarian South, all stemming from his thesis explorations, "A Jazz Institute", sited on the Tennessee River in Sheffield, Alabama. Understanding that these explorations would need to be continued and made manifest behind his own shingle, he founded Stan Wagnon Architect, P.A. in 1997, and began searching for his own voice in works such as the Willie Morris Residence, a series of rural public libraries, and the Mississippi Library Commission. In 2001, the firm evolved into Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A., and currently executes university campus, ecclesiastical, public school, and residential projects, among other project types. The firm has won numerous state design awards, as well as the Chicago Athenaeum's coveted American Architecture Award of 2007 for the Mississippi Library Commission building, a project that was included in a national series of exhibitions originating in New York City. Also in 2007, Mr. Wagnon won the Mississippi AIA's Silver Medal for contributions to the profession, the built environment, and architectural education, and was named the MSU College of Architecture, Art and Design's 2007-2008 Alumni Fellow, presenting at the Alumni Fellow lecture "I Heard the Building Sing", a study of the relationship of his architectural design and music composition, at Mississippi State as well as other universities.

Over the years, Mr. Wagnon has earned a reputation as a professional passionately interested in the well-being of not only his clients, but also of his employees and in their further education and development. He has been a respected teacher and mentor to architectural students, interns, and young architects alike, throughout the state of Mississippi, all searching for their beginnings in the architectural profession. Additionally, he has mentored a number of Sheffield High School students as they entered their architectural educations and later careers.

Enjoying a lifelong love of music, Mr. Wagnon has composed extensively for various groups, especially in the choral music genre, and his, " The Beatitudes" is currently being performed by college choirs. He helped found and direct junior and senior high choirs while on staff at First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, and has worked with primary children's choirs for over fifteen years. He currently contributes to the music program of Redeemer Church, a multi-ethnic Presbyterian church in Jackson, as a composer, arranger and instrumentalist.