16th annual

Alabama Writers Symposium

Literary Quilting

Rick Bragg • Chantel Acevedo • Marlin Barton • Kirk Curnutt • Anita Miller Garner • Peter Huggins • Nancy Dorman-Hickson • Randall Horton • Tom Kimmel • Cassandra King • Jay Lamar • Lisa Graves Minor • Jim Murphy • Don Noble • Wendy Reed • Gay Talese • Jeanie Thompson • Adam Vines • Sue Walker • Lila Quintero Weaver • Margaret Wrinkle & more

April 25-27, 2013 • Monroeville

www.WritersSymposium.org

ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

16th annual

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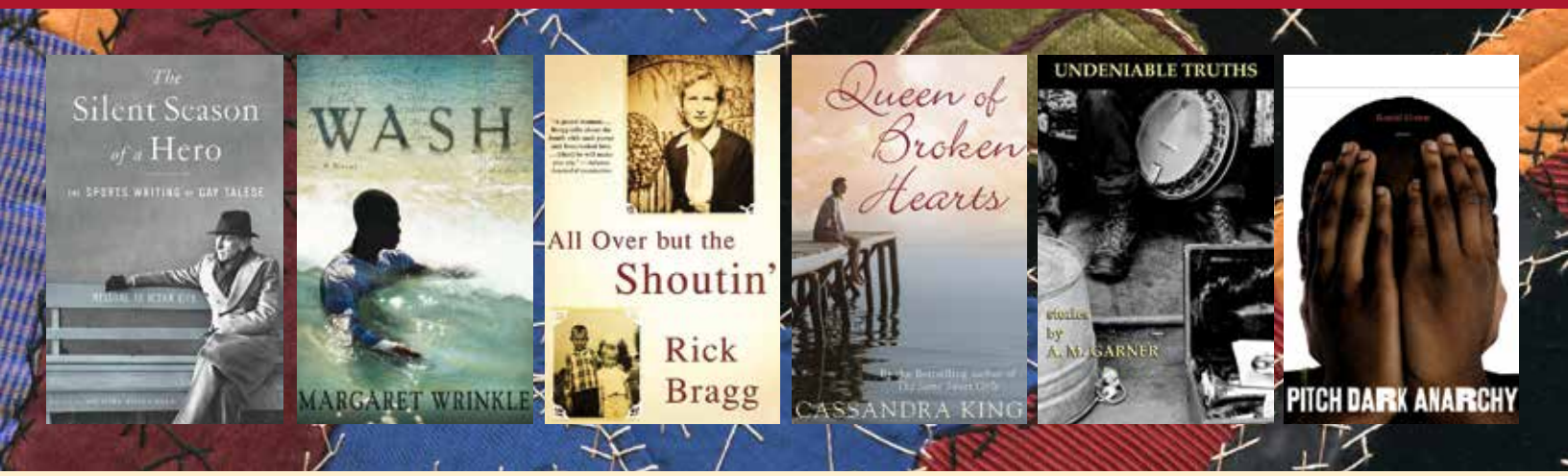


Join Rick Bragg, Cassandra King, Gay Talese and a cast of fabulous writers and scholars to explore "Literary Quilting" in beautiful Monroeville, Alabama, April 25-27, 2013.

Literary Alabama is a patchwork of writers and poets, different threads and fabrics that seem random and unconnected, put together in a way that is beautiful, whole, and uniquely our own. The 2013 Alabama Writers Symposium pays tribute to the stunning variety of Alabama literature. From the homespun elegance of Rick Bragg's memoir to the edginess of Lila Quintero Weaver's graphic novel, from Cassandra King's Southern-drawl fiction to Adam Vines's quietly powerful poetry, the scope of both style and experience are evident.

Enjoy the sophistication and the comfort of the Alabama literary quilt at what many call Alabama's literary family reunion. You'll feel right at home during a lively weekend of literary offerings featuring readings, signings and an award-winning production of *To Kill a Mockingbird.* The renowned Readers' Theatre is a must-see, performed by Alabama's best including Bill Cobb, Loretta Cobb, Ed Williams, Julia Williams, Jennifer Horne and Don Noble.

We're thrilled to host the winners of the 2013 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer and the 2013 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar. Make your reservation today to celebrate our literary heritage with some of the state's most talented writers!

Tee Up for Golf with Dr. Sykes
Thursday, April 25 • 1 pm
Vanity Fair Golf & Tennis Club

Play nine or 18 holes on Monroeville's beautiful course with Alabama Southern's President, Dr. Reginald Sykes. Price per person includes golf cart: $40 for 18 holes or $22.50 for nine holes. Sign up on the registration form enclosed.

For updates visit www.writerssymposium.org
Look for Alabama Writers Symposium and Alabama Southern on Facebook

Find us on Facebook®

Writers & Scholars

CHANTEL ACEVEDO's first novel, *Love and Ghost Letters* won the Latino International Book Award and was a finalist for the Connecticut Book of the Year. Acevedo was named a Literature Fellow by the Alabama State Council on the Arts in 2012. She is currently an associate professor of English and alumni writer-in-residence at Auburn University, where she founded the Auburn Writers Conference and edits the *Southern Humanities Review*.

MARLIN BARTON's most recent book is a novel, *The Cross Garden* (2011). Barton's collection of stories, *The Dry Well* (2001), received the Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook Award for the best first volume of short stories published that year. Other books include a novel, *A Broken Thing* (2003), and a second collection of stories, *Dancing by the River* (2005). He teaches in, and helps direct, the Writing Our Stories project, a program for juvenile offenders in Alabama. He also teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Converse College.

RICK BRAGG, the 2009 Harper Lee Award winner, is the best-selling and critically acclaimed author of Southern non-fiction, including a trio of books on his Calhoun County family that have become anthems of working-class American—*All Over but the Shoutin'* (1998), *Ava's Man* (2001) and *The Prince of Frogtown* (2008). The story of his mother's sacrifices in raising him and his brothers in 1960s Alabama, *All Over But the Shoutin'* is one of the most often read books in community and college wide reads. He is also the author of *I Am a Soldier, Too: The Jessica Lynch Story* (2004), and a collection of newspaper stories, "Somebody Told Me" (2001).

KIRK CURNUTT is the author of thirteen books of fiction and criticism, including two novels, *Breathing Out the Ghost* (2008) and *Dixie Noir* (2009), along with several studies of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein. As professor and chair of English at Troy University's Montgomery Campus, he currently serves as president of the Alabama Writers' Forum. His most recent book is *Brian Wilson*, a critical introduction to the Beach Boys' mastermind in Equinox Publishing's *Icons of Pop* Music series.

ANITA MILLER GARNER, associate professor of English, has taught Southern literature and fiction writing at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of North Alabama, and she has lectured on Alabama Women Writers with the Speakers' Bureau of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. A founding board member and former president of Alabama Writers' Forum, she has served as poetry editor of *New Virginia Review* and a fiction editor of *storySouth*. Her collection of short fiction, *Undeniable Truths,* was published in 2009. Another collection, *Southland*, is forthcoming Spring 2013.

NANCY DORMAN-HICKSON is the co-author of *Diplomacy and Diamonds* (2011), the memoir of Joanne King Herring who was portrayed by Julia Roberts in the film *Charlie Wilson's War*. Before freelancing, Dorman-Hickson was an editor with *Southern Living* and *Progressive Farmer* magazines. She was a top five finalist for the National Magazine Award and was named "Writer of the Year" multiple times by the American Agricultural Editors Association. She also has received awards from the National Federation of Press Women and its affiliate chapter, Alabama Media Professionals, as well as The Videographer Award of Distinction for a film documentary on washerwoman Oseola McCarty.

RANDALL HORTON is the author of *The Definition of Place* and the *Lingua Franca of Ninth Street*, both from Main Street Rag. Randall is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, the Bea Gonzalez Poetry Award and most recently a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in Literature. He has a MFA in poetry from Chicago State University and a PhD in creative writing from SUNY Albany. Randall is assistant professor of English at the University of New Haven. An excerpt from his memoir titled *Roxbury* is forthcoming by Kattywompus Press. Northwestern University Press published his latest poetry collection *Pitch Dark Anarchy* in February 2013.

PETER HUGGINS is the author of three books of poems, *Necessary Acts*, *Blue Angels*, and *Hard Facts* as well as the forthcoming *Mosquitoes*; he has published over 300 poems in more than 100 journals, magazines, and anthologies. Among other awards and honors he has received a literature fellowship in poetry from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. His picture book, *Trosclair and the Alligator,* has appeared on the PBS show *Between the Lions* and was honored as a best book by Bank Street and CCBC; his novel for younger readers is *In the Company of Owls*. He teaches in the English department at Auburn University.

TOM KIMMEL jokes that he's the only singer-songwriter to have written songs for Captain Kangaroo, Miami Vice and Touched By An Angel. But it's true! Tom's songs have appeared on albums by dozens of artists from Linda Ronstadt to Johnny Cash, in feature films, and television shows. He has released seven albums, including his latest, *Light of Day*, and a newly published book of poetry, *The Sweetest and the Meanest*. Tom Kimmel tours widely performing concerts, leading songwriting and creative living workshops, and weaving his songs and poetry in one man theater.

CASSANDRA KING's new book, *Moonrise*, will be released by Hyperion in July. Her first novel, *Making Waves in Zion*, was published in 1995 by River City Press and reissued in 2004 by Hyperion. Her second novel, *The Sunday Wife* (2002), was a *Book Sense* Pick, a *People* Magazine Page-Turner of the Week, a Literary Guild Book-of-the-Month selection, and a Books-a-Million President's Pick. Released in 2005, King's third novel, *The Same Sweet Girls*, became a #1 *Book Sense* Selection and *Book Sense* best-seller, a Southeastern Bookseller Association best-seller, a *New York Post* Required Reading selection, and a Literary Guild Book-of-the-Month Club selection, and a Southeastern Bookseller Association best-seller. King's 2008 novel, *Queen of Broken Hearts*, has been hailed as "wonderful," "uplifting," "absolutely fabulous," and filled with irresistible characters" by fellow Southern writers Sandra Brown, Fannie Flagg and Dorothea Benton Frank.

JAY LAMAR is the director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, Auburn University's College of Liberal Arts center for public engagement. It strengthens the bonds between the College of Liberal Arts and the public by creating and implementing arts and humanities programs that explore our individual and collective experiences, values, and identities through the past, in the present, and for the future. Lamar is co-editor (with Jeanie Thompson) of *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs by Alabama Writers*.

LISA GRAVES MINOR received the bachelor of science degree, and she furthered her education at Vanderbilt University, where she earned the master of arts and Ph.D. degrees in English literature. Presently, she is professor of English at the University of North Alabama where she teaches a variety of courses. Dr. Minor's honors and awards include Outstanding Young Women of America, the UNA Alumni Association Faculty/Staff Service Award, the Alpha Lambda Delta Outstanding Teaching Award, the Black Student Alliance Teacher of the Year, and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

JIM MURPHY teaches in the Department of English at the University of Montevallo. He additionally serves as a board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum and as director of the Montevallo Literary Festival. His chapbook, *The Memphis Sun*, is a Stan & Tom Wick award winner, and his first full-length poetry collection, *Heaven Overland*, is published by Kennesaw State UP.

DON NOBLE is professor emeritus of English at the University of Alabama, host of Alabama Public Television's author interview program, *Bookmark,* and book reviewer for Alabama Public Radio's *Alabama Bound*. He won an Emmy for Outstanding Collaboration Achievement in Writing from the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences with Brent Davis for a document film on Alabama writer William Bradford Huie. He is the recipient of the 2000 Eugene Current-Garcia Award.

An Accidental Memoir: How I Killed Someone and Other Essays and Stories is **WENDY REED**'s latest work. She has received fellowships from the Alabama State Council on

the Arts and Seaside Institute and two Emmys from the National Academy of the Television Arts and Sciences (Southeast Chapter). She co-edited *All Out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality* and *Circling Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality* with Jennifer Horne. As a producer/director with the University of Alabama's Center for Public Television and Radio, Reed wrote, produced, and directed numerous documentaries and videos. The series *Bookmark* received three nominations under her direction, and the natural history show, *Discovering Alabama*, won three Emmys during her time there.

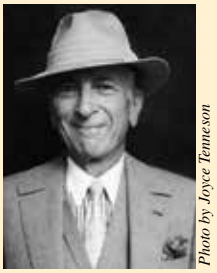


Photo by Joyce Tenneson

GAY TALESE, the 2013 Harper Lee award winner, has been chronicling American life and writing the literature of reality for more than half a century. His writing expands from his time at the University of Alabama in 1949 to working as a reporter at *The New York Times* in 1956. Commentators such as Tom Wolfe have noted, it was Talese who, along with Jimmy Breslin and Norman Mailer, invented the genre New Journalism which we now call creative nonfiction. His most recent book, *A Writer's Life*, was published by Knopf in April 2006. It recounts the inner workings of this writer's life, the interplay between experience and writing: the art of hanging out as Gay Talese describes his work. Talese has also written for *The New Yorker* and four of his books have been best-sellers: *Unto the Sons* (1992), *Thy Neighbor's Wife* (1980), *Honor Thy Father* (1971), and *The Kingdom and the Power* (1968).

JEANIE THOMPSON's poetry collections include *The Seasons Bear Us*, *White for Harvest: New and Selected Poems*, *Witness*, and *How to Enter the River*. She co-edited *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs by Alabama Writers*. Thompson's poems, interviews with writers, and critical articles have appeared in *Antaeus, Copper Nickel, Crazyhorse, North American Review, New England Review, Southern Review* and others. This year, she was awarded an Individual Artist Literature Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Thompson is founding director of the Alabama Writers' Forum, a statewide literary arts organization in Montgomery, Alabama, and a faculty member of the Spalding University Brief Residency MFA Writing Program.

ADAM VINES is an assistant professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he is editor of *Birmingham Poetry Review*. He has published recent poems in *Poetry, Post Road, Redivider, The Literary Review*, and *Hunger Mountain*. His collection, *The Coal Life* (2012), was a finalist for the Miller Williams Prize. He has won awards for his teaching from UAB and the University of Florida, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts awarded him an Individual Artist Fellowship for 2013.

SUE WALKER, former poet laureate of Alabama, is Director of Creative Writing and Stokes Distinguished Professor at the University of South Alabama. She has published seven books of poetry, a mixed genre book on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, drama, creative non-fiction, and literary criticism. *She Said* is forthcoming from River's Edge Press, and a critical work on James Dickey is forthcoming from Mellen Press. She is the publisher of Negative Capability Press.

LILA QUINTERO WEAVER is the author-illustrator of *Darkroom: A Memoir in Black & White*. She was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Darkroom* recounts her family's immigrant experience in small-town Alabama during the tumultuous 1960s. It is her first major publication. Lila is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, **MARGARET WRINKLE** is a writer, filmmaker, educator, and visual artist. Her debut novel, *Wash*, was released in February of 2013. It will be accompanied by a touring exhibition of her photographs of slavery-related sites throughout the South. Wrinkle holds a B.A. and an M.A. in English from Yale University and a masters in elementary education from University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has studied fiction with Pinckney Benedict, Dennis Covington and AJ Verdelle. Her award-winning documentary feature, *broken\ground*, explores contemporary race relations in her historically conflicted hometown.

Artists

Photo: Birmingham Festival Theatre

BETTY GAINES KENNEDY may be best known in Alabama for the delicious steaks, seafood, yeast rolls and black bottom pie she serves at her popular Gaines Ridge Dinner Club in Camden, but she's also an avid quilter – stitching her colorful Alabama memories into brilliant fabric artworks. When Betty and her sister Haden turned their 1830s family home into a restaurant in 1985, it quickly became a Black Belt favorite and is now on the Alabama Department of Tourism's "100 Places to Eat Before You Die" list. Just as Gaines Ridge's menu and décor incorporate Betty's family antiques and heritage, her quilts reflect her family's past and present through inventive interpretations of traditional quilting patterns and fabrics.

Betty quilts using a sewing machine, since running a restaurant doesn't leave much time for hand sewing. Although she has sewn all her life, Betty only began quilting a decade ago. In 2011, Betty created an intricate "legacy" quilt for the centerpiece of Birmingham Festival Theatre's production of *Quilters*, a play about pioneer families heading west while a mother stitches memories of each stage of the journey into a quilt she makes for her daughters.

Betty has another connection to Alabama's literary heritage. She's an accomplished storyteller – especially when it comes to the ghosts who inhabit Gaines Ridge. However, Betty prefers the phrase "ghost truths" over the conventional "ghost stories."

Accommodations

Monroeville is easily accessible from Interstate 65 and Highway 84. The hotels listed are conveniently located on Highway 21. For reservations, please call the hotels directly.

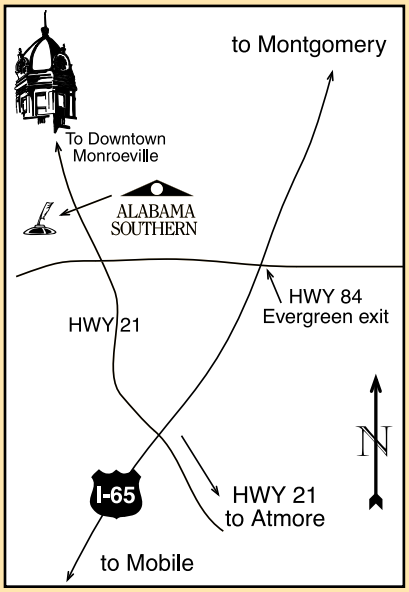
The following hotels will hold a block of rooms:

■ **Best Western**
(251) 575-9999
$65.95 plus tax for king or two queens

■ **The Mockingbird Inn**
(251) 743-3297
$65.95 plus tax for king or two queens

■ **Monroeville Inn**
(251) 575-3312
$40 plus tax for double rooms

■ **Holiday Inn Express**
(251) 743-3333
$90.95 plus tax for king or two queens



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Events will be held on the campus of Alabama Southern Community College, at the Monroeville Community House and the Monroe County Heritage Museum in downtown Monroeville. Registration will take place Thursday afternoon and Friday morning at Alabama Southern. In addition to the events listed below, the schedule will include art exhibits, music and booksellers.

Thursday, April 25

1-5 p.m. Registration & Exhibit of Alabama Artists, Location: Nettles Auditorium on the campus of Alabama Southern Community College
1 p.m. Golf with President Sykes at Vanity Fair Golf and Tennis Club
1 p.m. Historical Downtown Walking Tours
2-4 p.m. Emerging Writers Meet and Greet at the library of Alabama Southern Community College
6:30-9:30 p.m. Hospitality Hour and Opening Reception with Rick Bragg, Location: Monroeville Community House

Friday, April 26

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration and Literary Coffee House, Location: Nettles Auditorium and Alabama Southern Community College Library
8:30-11:55 a.m. Morning Sessions, Location: Nettles Auditorium
8:30-9:15 a.m. Memoir Panel: Wendy Reed and Lila Quintero Weaver with moderator Jim Murphy
9:20-10 a.m. Literary Arts Fellowship Winners, Adam Vines and Chantel Acevedo with moderator Lisa Graves Minor
10:05- 10:20 a.m. Refreshment Break
10:30-11 a.m. Nancy Dorman-Hickson with moderator Jay Lamar
11:05-11:35 a.m. Cassandra King with moderator Anita Miller Garner
12:15-2 p.m. Awards Luncheon: Presentation of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2013 and of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2013. Location: Monroeville Community House
2:30-4:30 p.m. Afternoon Sessions, Location: Nettles Auditorium
2:30-3:00 p.m. Marlin Barton with moderator Kirk Curnutt
3:05-3:50 p.m. Margaret Wrinkle with moderator Jeanie Thompson
3:55-4:35 p.m. Singer/Songwriter Tom Kimmel
4:40-5:15 p.m. Book Signings, Location: Library at Alabama Southern Community College
5:35-6:50 p.m. Picnic on the Monroeville Courthouse lawn
Concurrent Sessions:
7:00-9:00 p.m. Live performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Location: Old Courthouse Museum
7:00-8:30 p.m. Readers' Theatre featuring Bill Cobb, Loretta Cobb, Ed Williams, Julia Williams, Jennifer Horne & Don Noble, Location: Beehive Coffee
8:30-11:00 p.m. "Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation" featuring the band "Second Coming" Location: Vanity Fair Golf and Tennis Club

Saturday, April 27

8:30 -10:30 a.m. Light Refreshments and Morning Sessions at the Old Courthouse
9:00 – 9:50 a.m. Poetry Panel: Randall Horton, Sue Walker, and Peter Huggins with moderator Jennifer Horne
10:00-11:00 a.m. Gay Talese with moderator Don Noble

2013 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 5, 2013 • Mail completed registration form to:
Alabama Writers Symposium • Alabama Southern Community College • P.O. Box 2000 • Monroeville, AL 36461
Contact Donna Reed (251) 575-8223/ Fax: (251) 575-5356 • email: dreed@ascc.edu • www.writerssymposium.org

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

Admission to discussion sessions is free to all registered participants; however there is a charge for other events. You will receive registration confirmation in the mail. The schedule of events is subject to change without notice. Registration fees are non-refundable.

PAYMENT METHOD

❏ Check enclosed payable to Alabama Writers Symposium or

❏ Please bill my ❏ VISA or ❏ Mastercard

Card # _____ exp. date _____

Signature of card holder _____

2013 REGISTRATION FEES

Fees are listed per person

❏ Comprehensive Ticket • April 25-27 ..... $155
Includes all meals and events except *To Kill a Mockingbird* play on April 26

❏ Thursday Ticket • April 25 ..... $50
Includes reception and "An Evening with Rick Bragg"

❏ Historical Downtown Walking Tour ..... FREE

❏ Golf with Dr. Sykes • April 25 ..... $40
18 holes and golf cart for one person

❏ Golf with Dr. Sykes • April 25 ..... $22.50
9 holes and golf cart for one person

❏ Friday Ticket • April 26 ..... $70
Includes awards luncheon, picnic and more

❏ Saturday, April 27 ..... FREE
Courthouse Sessions

❏ *To Kill a Mockingbird* ticket $35
Friday, April 26 only

❏ Discussions only ..... FREE

PLEASE NOTE: *To Kill a Mockingbird* tickets are limited. First priority will be given to those who purchase comprehensive tickets. Please register early!

Total Registration .....$ _____

ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

A project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts

Alabama Southern Community College
P.O. Box 2000 • Monroeville, AL 36461
www. writerssymposium.org

Alabama Writers Symposium

April 25-27, 2013 • Monroeville, Alabama

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

Alabama Southern Community College • George Landegger • Alabama Humanities Foundation • Alabama State Council on the Arts • Radley's Fountain Grille • The City of Monroeville

The Symposium is produced in cooperation with:

The Alabama Writers' Forum • The Association of College English Teachers of Alabama • The Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities • Monroe County Heritage Museums • Monroeville/Monroe County Area Chamber of Commerce

The Alabama Writers Symposium is a project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts.