Sixth Annual

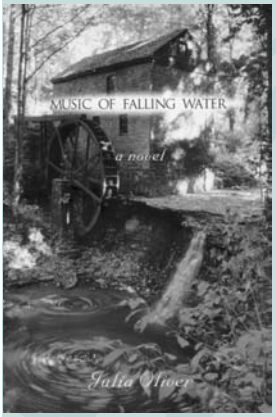
ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

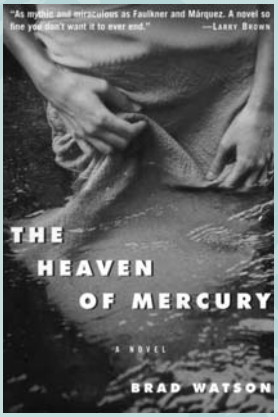
May 1-3, 2003

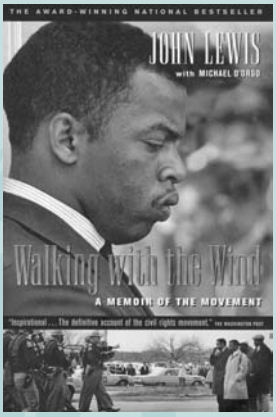
Monroeville, Alabama

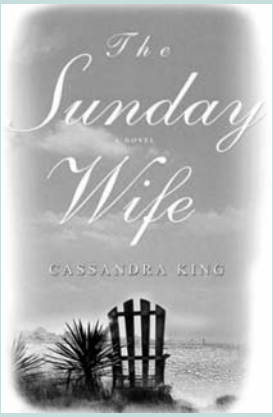
The Literary Capital of Alabama

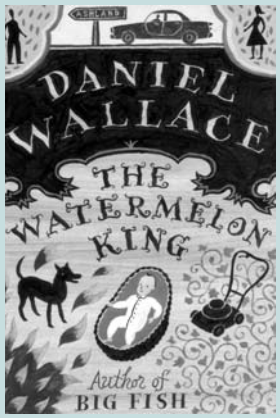
Join us for the sixth annual Alabama Writers Symposium May 1-3, 2003 in Monroeville, Alabama











Monroeville The Literary Capital of Alabama

In 1997, the Alabama legislature, by joint resolution, designated Monroeville and Monroe County as the Literary Capital of Alabama in recognition of the region's remarkable literary heritage.

Among the writers who at one time or another have called Monroeville and Monroe County home are Truman Capote, author of such classics as A Christmas Memory, In Cold Blood, *and* Breakfast at Tiffany's*; Harper Lee, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel,* To Kill A Mockingbird*; Mark Childress, author of four novels including the bestselling* Crazy in Alabama*; and the nationally syndicated columnist Cynthia Tucker. With such an amazing literary history, Monroeville is the ideal location for the Alabama Writers Symposium.*

Alabama Writers Symposium Salutes the 10th Anniversary of the Alabama Writers' Forum

The 2003 Alabama Writers Symposium will salute the strength of Alabama's literary community by combining the sixth annual gathering of writers, scholars, and readers with the 10th Anniversary of the Alabama Writers' Forum. Members of our state's rich contemporary literary family will gather in Monroeville, Alabama **May 1-3, 2003** for a weekend of readings by more than 25 writers, with the thoughtful guidance of some of our best literary scholars.

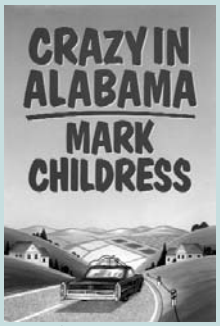
The Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2003 and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2003 will again honor the best of the best. Ranging over a wide variety of topics, essayists, fiction writers, poets, and others from the arts community offer participants a rich variety of words and viewpoints as we explore this year's theme, ***The Power of the Written Word.***

The Alabama Writers' Forum, a partnership program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, promotes and facilitates the practice of literary arts through its services to writers and the general public. With individual and corporate associates statewide, the Forum represents diverse voices of today's writing talent. The Forum was founded in 1993 in appreciation of Alabama's strong literary heritage with a commitment to its continuation. Among its outreach programs for young writers are the High School Literary Arts awards and "Writing Our Stories: An Anti-Violence Creative Writing Program" in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Youth Services. For more information, please visit www.writersforum.org.

Register early and enjoy a memorable weekend of Southern literary tradition in historic Monroeville, the Literary Capital of Alabama, at the sixth annual Alabama Writers Symposium. Please see the enclosed registration form for complete registration information.

Featured Alabama Writers

R. SCOTT BRUNNER is a native of Bessemer, and holds degrees from the University of Montevallo and Auburn University, and earned the Certified Association Executive designation in 1997. He is the author of *Due South: Dispatches from Down Home* and *Carryin' On (and Other Strange Things Southerners Do)*, and serves as an occasional commentator on National Public Radio's program *All Things Considered*.



MARK CHILDRESS, a Monroeville native, has published the novels *A World Made of Fire*, *V for Victor*, *Tender*, *Crazy in Alabama* (which was made into a major motion picture directed by Antonio Banderas), and *Gone for Good*. His works for children include *Henry Bobbity is Missing*, *Joshua and Bigtooth*, and *Joshua and the Big Bad Blue Crabs*. Childress lives in New York City.

PAUL GASTON, a native of Fairhope and grandson of its founder E. B. Gaston, is Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Virginia. His books include *Women of Fair Hope* and *Man and Mission: E.B. Gaston and the Origins of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony*. His *New South Creed* has recently been updated and brought back into print. He is currently at work on a memoir covering life in the Fairhope colony and his career as a Southern historian and civil rights activist. He is a Life Fellow of the Southern Regional Council.

PAUL HEMPHILL, a native of Birmingham, is a journalist, sportswriter and novelist. He is the author of fourteen books, including *The Ballad of Little River: A Tale of Race and Unrest in the Rural South* and *Leaving Birmingham: Notes of a Native Son*.

AILEEN KILGORE HENDERSON, of Brookwood, served in the Women's Army Corps during WWII as an airplane engine mechanic and a photo lab technician, and published *Stateside Soldier*, her journal of this experience. Her books for young authors are *The Summer of the Bonepile Monster*, winner of the Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature and the Alabama Library Association Award; *The Monkey Thief*, chosen by the New York Public Library for its *1998 Books for the Teenage*; and *Treasure of Panther Peak*. She has also published *Tenderfoot Teacher: Letters from the Big Bend, 1952-1954*. Henderson serves as Writers' Representative for the Alabama Writers' Forum Board of Directors.

SUZANNE HUDSON, a native of Fairhope, has published a short story collection, *Opposable Thumbs*. One of the collection's stories won The Penthouse College Writing Award judged by a panel including Toni Morrison and Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Hudson works as a guidance counselor in the Fairhope public school system, and has a novel forthcoming from McAdam/Cage Publishers.

RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON, a Monroeville native, wrote for *The Monroe Journal* for several years before leaving to write for United Press International. She has won numerous awards, including the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Distinctive Writing Award for Commentary and the Ernie Pyle Journalism Award, and she has been inducted into the Scripps Howard Editorial Hall of Fame. Grimsley Johnson received the National Headliner Award for Commentary and was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary in 1991. She is currently a syndicated columnist for King Features in New York.

RODNEY JONES, a native of Falkville, has published seven collections of poetry since 1980, including *The Story They Told Us of Light*, *The Unborn*, *Transparent Gestures*, *Apocalyptic Narrative and Other Poems*, *Things that Happen Once*, *Elegy for the Southern Drawl*, and *The Kingdom of the Instant*. His poems have appeared in all major literary journals and five annual editions of *The Best American Poetry*. Jones received the 1990 National Book Critics Circle citation for *Transparent Gestures*, and *Elegy for the Southern Drawl* was a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry runner-up in 1999. He is professor of English at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Jones is the 2003 recipient of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer.

CASSANDRA KING, a native of Montevallo, has written two novels, *Making Waves in Zion* and *The Sunday Wife*. Her short fiction is included in *Alabama Bound* and *Belles Letters*.

The Honorable **JOHN LEWIS**, a native of Troy, has been called "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced." Rep. Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing personal dignity and building what he calls "The Beloved Community." He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize. His book *Walking With The Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* chronicles these experiences. First elected to Congress in November 1986, Rep. Lewis represents Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, which encompasses the entire city of Atlanta and parts of Fulton, DeKalb and Clayton counties. In 1996, John Lewis was unopposed in his bid for a sixth term and is currently serving his eighth term in office.

MICHAEL MARTONE, of Tuscaloosa, is Professor of English, Director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Alabama, and author of five books of short fiction including *Seeing Eye*, *Pensees: The Thoughts of Dan Quayle*, *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, *Safety Patrol*, and *Alive and Dead in Indiana*. His latest book, *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*, a collection of his own essays about the Midwest, won the AWP Prize for Creative Nonfiction in 1998.

WILLIAM MILLER, a native of Birmingham, is the author of a number of children's books including *The Piano*, a Kirkus Reviews starred title; *Night Golf*, a Parent's Choice Award Gold Medal winner; *Richard Wright and the Library Card*, a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children; *Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree*, a Reading-Rainbow featured title; and *Rent Party Jazz*, illustrated by Charlotte Riley-Webb. Miller also writes poetry for adults and has published widely in literary journals.

Photo credit: Sigrid Estrada

SENA JETER NASLUND, a native of Birmingham, has published four novels, *The Animal Way to Love*, *Sherlock in Love*, *Ahab's Wife*, the forthcoming *Four Spirits*, and two short story collections, *Ice Skating at the North Pole* and *The Disobedience of Water*. *Ahab's Wife*, a Book of the Month Club Main Selection and national bestseller, was selected by *Time* magazine and by Book Sense as one of the five best novels of 1999, and it appeared on the notable book lists of the *New York Review of Books* and of *Publishers Weekly*. She received the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2001, and currently serves as the Director of Creative Writing at the Spalding University MFA Brief Residency Program. Naslund is the founding editor of *The Louisville Review*.

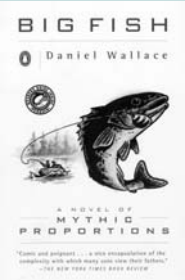
JULIA OLIVER, of Montgomery, is the author of the short story collection, *Seventeen Times as High as the Moon*, and two novels, *Music of Falling Water* and *Goodbye to the Buttermilk Sky*. She has also written two stage plays: *Strings*, which was a showcase production at Montgomery's Jubilee Celebration and *Many Winters, Many Moons*, for Red Mountain Museum Theatre; Fort Toulouse.

MICHELLE RICHMOND, an Alabama native now living in San Francisco, is the author of the novel *Dream of the Blue Room*, and the short story collection *The Girl in the Fall-Away Dress*, which won the Associated Writing Programs Award for Short Fiction. She holds an MFA from the University of Miami, where she was named a Michener Fellow and fiction editor of the literary journal *Mangrove*, and has received residency grants from the Millay Colony for the Arts, the Saltonstall Foundation, Hedgebrook, and The Julia and David White Artists' Colony in Costa Rica.

MARVIN ROGERS, a native of Butler, is the author of the novel *The Bermuda Indenture*, and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama representing the state in oil and gas and environmental litigation.

NATASHA TRETHEWEY, former Auburn University faculty member, has published two poetry collections, *Domestic Work* and *Bellocq's Ophelia*. *Domestic Work* won the inaugural 1999 Cave Canem poetry prize (selected by Rita Dove), a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. She is the recipient of a 2000-2001 Bunting Fellowship from the Radcliff Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She has recently joined the Emory University Creative Writing faculty.

FRANK X WALKER, a frequent writer-in-the-schools in Alabama, is director of Kentucky's Governor's School for the ARTS, former Assistant Director of the Black Cultural Center at Purdue University, Program Director at the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center at the University of Kentucky and Executive Director of the Bluegrass Arts Consortium. His publications include *Affrilachia, Eclipsing a Nappy New Millennium*, and *Kentucky to New York City, Art & 9.11*, a documentary.



DANIEL WALLACE, a native of Birmingham, is the author of three novels, *Big Fish*, *Ray in Reverse*, and *The Watermelon King*. *Big Fish* has been translated into five languages, was adapted for the screen by John August, and is currently being made into a major motion picture by Columbia Pictures, directed by Tim Burton with filming on location in Montgomery, Wetumpka, and Tallassee.

BRAD WATSON, a former resident of Alabama, is author of a novel *The Heaven of Mercury*, which was nominated for the National Book Award and named a *New York Times Book Review Notable Book*, and a short story collection, *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, for which he won the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and the New Writers Award. His stories have been published in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, *The Oxford American*, *The Black Warrior Review*, and *Best American Mystery Stories*. Watson has served as the Director of Creative Writing at Harvard University, and currently teaches at University of West Florida and for the Spalding University MFA Brief Residency Program in Louisville, KY.

Photo credit: Rickey Yanaura

JAMES WHITE, of Montrose, is Vice President and Executive Director of the Christopher Isherwood Foundation and his novels include *Birdsong*, *California Exit*, *Clara's Call*, and *The Persian Oven*. He has been awarded Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships. He formerly directed the Master's of Professional Writing at the University of Southern California and currently directs the creative writing program at the University of South Alabama.

Schedule of Events

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

THURSDAY, MAY 1

6:30-7:30 p.m. Reception
Meet the Writers & Scholars

7:30-9:30 p.m. Opening Banquet
"An Evening with Syndicated Columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson" interviewed by Don Noble, host of APTV's *BookMark* and APR's *Alabama Bound* radio book review series

FRIDAY, MAY 2

8:15-8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks: "The Power of the Written Word" with Elaine Hughes

8:45-10:30 a.m. Author Readings
- **8:45-9:15 a.m. Fiction**
  Brad Watson and Michelle Richmond
- **9:20-9:50 a.m. Creative NonFiction/ Personal Essay –** R. Scott Brunner and Rheta Grimsley Johnson
- **10-10:30 a.m. Poetry**
  Natasha Trethewey and Frank X Walker

10:45-11:30 a.m. Book Signing/ Morning Authors

11:30-12 a.m. Dedication of the Monroeville Writers Fountain and Courtyard –
Monroeville writers honored: Harper Lee, Truman Capote, Mark Childress, Marva Collins, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Riley Kelly, Mike Stewart, William Barrett Travis, Cynthia Tucker, and Hank Williams.

12:15-2 p.m. Awards Luncheon
Presentation by the Executive Director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2003 and by the Executive Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation of the Eugene Current Garcia Award for Alabama'sDistinguished Literary Scholar 2003
Awards sponsored by George F. Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company, Inc.

2:30-3:25 p.m. Breakout Sessions
A. Writing for Younger Readers: Children and Young Adults – Aileen Henderson and William Miller with moderator Joan Nist
B. The Past Made New: Writing Historical Fiction – Sena Jeter Naslund, Julia Oliver, and Marvin Rogers with moderator Derryn Moten
C. Four Authors and Their Publishers Tell Their Stories – Suzanne Hudson and Joe Taylor (Livingston Press); Paul Gaston and Representative from New South, Inc.; Paul Hemphill and Dan Waterman (University of Alabama Press); Author and Representative from River City Publishing with moderator Jay Lamar

3:30-4 p.m. Mark Childress Reading New Work

4-5:15 p.m. Book Signing/ All Conference Authors

5:30-6:45 p.m. Picnic on the Monroeville Courthouse Lawn

7-9 p.m. Live Performance of *To Kill A Mockingbird*

7:30-10 p.m. "Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation"
Art Exhibit

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Events at Monroe County Heritage Museum

9-11 a.m. Refreshments on Old Monroe County Courthouse Lawn

9-9:45 a.m. Novel to Film: How Alabama Landed *Big Fish* – Novelist Daniel Wallace and former Alabama Film Office Director, Brian Kurlander with moderator Dale Foster

10-10:45 a.m. A Novelist Tells All
Author Cassandra King with scholar Lisa Minor

11:15-11:45 a.m. Exploring the *Kingdom of the Instant*: Poetry reading by Rodney Jones, 2003 Harper Lee Award Winner
Moderator: Bettye Forbus

Events at Alabama Southern Community College

9-10:45 a.m. "Becoming the Best Writer You Can Be – A Conversation Among Teachers and Students"– Moderator: Jeanie Thompson
- Sena Jeter Naslund and Brad Watson with Frank X Walker – Spalding University MFA Brief Residency Program
- James White and Student – University of South Alabama Graduate in Creative Writing
- Michael Martone and Student – University of Alabama MFA Program in Creative Writing

Events at Monroe County Community House

12:15-2 p.m. Luncheon – Keynote Speaker the Honorable John Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives

2 p.m. Meet the Authors/Book Signing

Featured Alabama Scholars

BETTYE FORBUS is director of the Houston-Love Memorial Library in Dothan and serves on the Executive Board of the Alabama Writers' Forum as Vice President.

DALE FOSTER, a Mobile native, is Director of Daphne Public Library and Screenwriting Instructor for the University of South Alabama, Department of Special Courses.

ELAINE HUGHES is professor of English at the University of Montevallo and well known in Alabama as a scholar of Alabama writers and writing. She is currently researching and compiling a comprehensive bibliographic dictionary of Alabama Writers with Bert Hitchcock (Auburn University). Hughes is advising the recently revived *Montevallo Literary Review*. She serves on the board of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

BRIAN KURLANDER, of Birmingham, is former Director of the Alabama Film Office, and was responsible for landing the production of the major motion picture *Big Fish* in Alabama. He is an actor, director, and screenwriter and currently consults with the film industry in Alabama.

JAY LAMAR is Associate Director of the Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University, Associate Director for the Alabama Center for the

Book, editor of *First Draft*, the journal of the Alabama Writers' Forum, and co-editor with Jeanie Thompson of *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs by Alabama Writers*. Lamar consults extensively with librarians and literary program directors throughout the state of Alabama.

LISA MINOR is Associate Professor of English at the University of North Alabama who has over twenty years of teaching experience with an emphasis in Southern women writers and the novel.

DERRYN MOTEN is Associate Professor of Humanities at Alabama State University, a lecturer on the Civil Rights Movement, and board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum. He also serves as history book review editor for *First Draft*.

JOAN NIST is Professor Emerita of English at Auburn University and professor of children's and young adults' literature, with research interests in the area of international children's books, historical fiction, and picture books. She is a frequent contributor to *First Draft*.

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 Collaborative Achievement in Writing from the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, with Brent Davis, for an hour-long documentary film on Alabama writer William Bradford Huie. In 2000, Noble received the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar. He is a board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum.

JEANIE THOMPSON, of Montgomery, is Executive Director of the Alabama Writers' Forum, co-editor with Jay Lamar of *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs by Alabama Writers*, and author of three collections of poetry, *White for Harvest: New and Selected Poems*, *Witness*, and *How to Enter the River*. Thompson is on the faculty of the Spalding University MFA Brief Residency Program. In 2003, The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Fine Arts Leadership Board recognized Thompson with the Alumni Arts Award for her work as a writer and arts education advocate.

2003 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 18, 2003 • Mail completed registration form to:
Alabama Writers Symposium • Alabama Southern Community College • P. O. Box 2000 • Monroeville, AL 36461

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

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.

2003 REGISTRATION FEES

❑ **Comprehensive Ticket • May 1-3 .....$150**
Includes all meals and events except *To Kill A Mockingbird* play on May 2

❑ **Thursday Ticket • May 1 .....$50**
Includes reception and "An Evening with Rheta Grimsley Johnson"

❑ **Friday Ticket • May 2 .....$60**
Includes awards luncheon, picnic and jazz quartet

❑ **Saturday Ticket • May 3 .....$50**
Includes luncheon with Honorable John Lewis

❑ ***To Kill A Mockingbird* ticket $25**
Friday, May 2 only

❑ **Discussion sessions 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 .....$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

❑ Check enclosed payable to Alabama Writers Symposium OR ❑ Please bill my ❑ Visa or ❑ Mastercard

Card # _____ exp. date _____ Signature of card holder _____

For more information call Donna Reed, (251) 575-3156, ext. 223/ email: dreed@ascc.edu. or Lee Taylor, (251) 575-3156, ext. 265/ email: ltaylor@ascc.edu

Visit our website at www.ascc.edu for symposium updates and registration information.

Alabama Writers Symposium Sponsors

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

The Symposium is sponsored by

- Alabama Southern Community College
- George Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company, Inc.
- Alabama Humanities Foundation
- Alabama State Council on the Arts
- Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust
- The Alabama Writers' Forum
- Monroe County Bank
- Alabama Power Foundation
- Vanity Fair, Inc.
- United Bank
- NDI's The Cracked Pot

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
- Alabama Center for the Book
- Monroe County Heritage Museums
- Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce

Accommodations in Monroeville

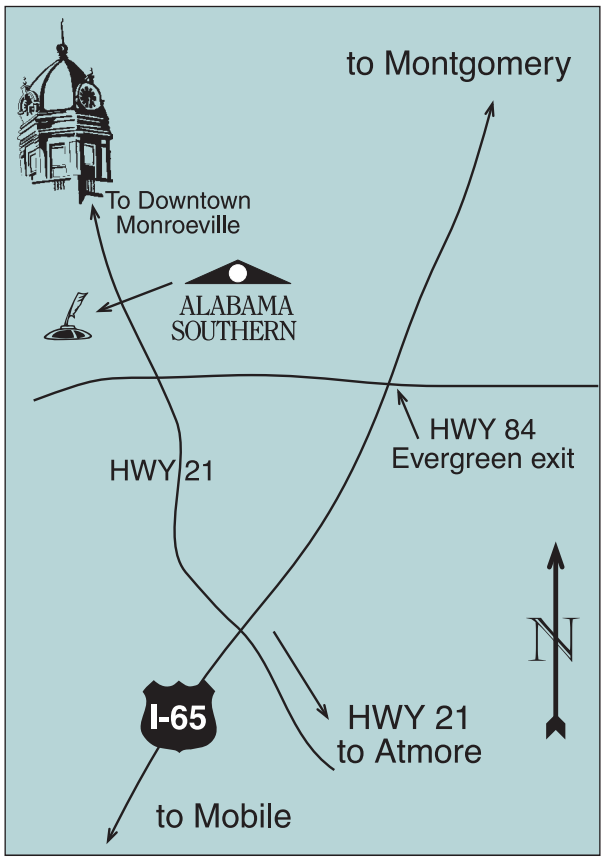
Monroeville is easily accessible from Interstate 65 and Highway 84. The hotels listed below are conveniently located on Highway 21. Each hotel will hold a block of rooms for symposium participants until April 25. Please call the numbers listed below for reservations.

Best Western
$52 plus tax for double, queen, and king rooms
(251) 575-9999
fax: (251) 575-9117

Days Inn
$49.50 plus tax for single and double rooms
(251) 743-3297
fax: (251) 743-2920

Holiday Inn Express
$55.95 plus tax for double, queen, and king rooms
(251) 743-3333
fax: (251) 575-5916

Monroeville Inn
$35 plus tax for double and king rooms; $30 for single
(251) 575-3312
fax: (251) 575-7780



2003 Special Events

Dedication of the Monroeville Writers Fountain and Courtyard

As the Literary Capital of Alabama, Monroeville has been home to some of the South's best writers: Harper Lee, Truman Capote, Mark Childress, Marva Collins, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Riley Kelly, Mike Stewart, William Barrett Travis, Cynthia Tucker, and Hank Williams. In fact, Rick Bragg has called Monroeville the "cradle of Southern literature." The Monroeville Writers Fountain and Courtyard celebrates these writers, and the power their words have had in the lives of citizens around the globe.

Literary Icon Portrait

Commissioned by the Alabama Center for Literary Arts. Internationally acclaimed Alabama artist Nall will unveil a portrait of Alabama Literary Icon, Booker T. Washington, commissioned for the Alabama Writers Hall of Honor. Nall is an American symbolist artist who further developed his passion for art through studies in Paris and numerous world travels.

To Kill A Mockingbird

Two-act, stage adaptation of Harper Lee's 1935 Southern story dealing with prejudice, courage, love, and understanding, performed by a home town cast in the Old Monroe County Courthouse. The dramatization focuses on life, the depression, changing relationships, and racism in the Deep South.

ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

A project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts

Alabama Southern Community College
P.O. Box 2000 • Monroeville, AL 36461
(251) 575-3156, ext. 223