

Did that **really** happen?

**Facts and Truth
in Alabama Literature**



Featured Writers

Howell Raines
Trudier Harris
Tom Franklin
Dennis Covington
Jennifer S. Davis
Michael Knight
Phyllis Alesia Perry
Thomas Rabbitt
Diann Blakely
Eliot Khalil Wilson

2004 Harper Lee Award Winner

Sonia Sanchez

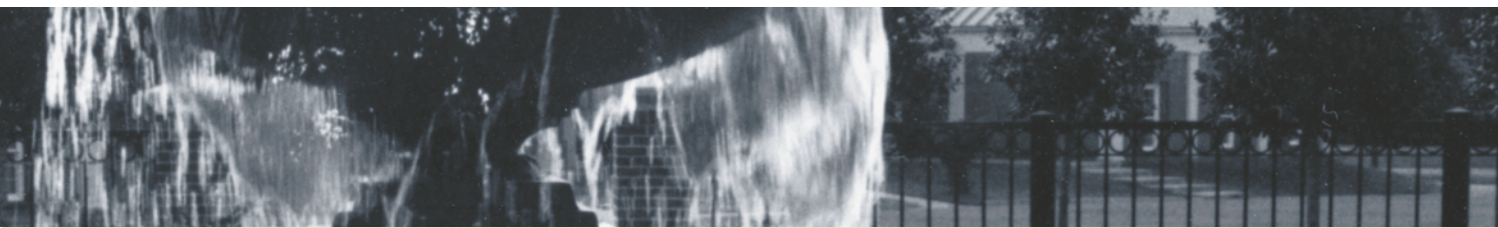
**2004 Eugene Current-Garcia
Award Winner**

Benjamin B. Williams

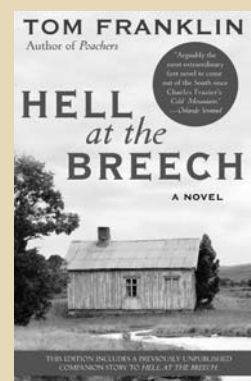
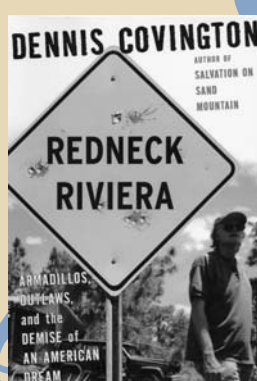
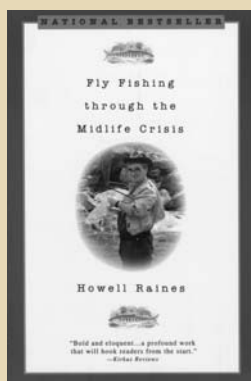
Seventh Annual

**ALABAMA
WRITERS
SYMPOSIUM**

**April 29-May 1, 2004
Monroeville, Alabama
The Literary Capital of Alabama**



Join us for the seventh annual
 Alabama Writers Symposium
 April 29-May 1, 2004 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.

Fountain of Literary Inspiration
 honors ten Monroeville writers



During the 2003 Alabama Writers Symposium, Alabama Southern dedicated the Fountain of Literary Inspiration in honor of ten outstanding writers who have at one point called Monroeville or Monroe County home. The fountain is the centerpiece of a beautifully landscaped courtyard outside the library.

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, Rhetta Grimsley Johnson, Riley Kelly, Mike Stewart, William

Barrett Travis, Cynthia Tucker and Hank Williams. The Monroeville Writers Fountain and Courtyard celebrates these writers and the power their words have had in the lives of citizens around the globe. The names of the 10 honored writers are etched into the limestone that borders the pool at the fountain's base.

In conjunction with the Monroeville Writers Fountain, Alabama Southern has produced its own private label water, *Inspiration: Monroeville Writers Water*, because, as many have said, with all the talent bubbling forth from Monroeville, "It must be in the water."

Featured Alabama Writers

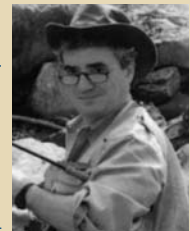
Diann Blakely is the author of two books of poetry: *Hurricane Walk*, and *Farewell, My Lovelies*. A third collection, *Cities of Flesh and the Dead*, received the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award from the Poetry Society of America and will be published by Zoo Press in 2005. Blakely, twice awarded the Pushcart Prize, has received fellowships to the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences, and has been anthologized in *Best American Poetry 2003*. She is a poetry editor of *Antioch Review*.



Trudier Harris is J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2002, she received the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Scholar. The author of numerous scholarly books, Harris has also published a collection of personal essays, *Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South*. A native of Tuscaloosa, she earned her BA at Stillman College, her MA and PhD at The Ohio State University.



Howell Raines, the former executive editor of *The New York Times*, won the Pulitzer Prize for "Grady's Gift," the story of his friendship with an African American woman during the Civil Rights struggles. He is the author of two books of non-fiction, *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis* and *My Soul Is Rested: Movement Days in the Deep South Remembered*, and a novel, *Whiskey Man*.



Dennis Covington is the author of the nonfiction book *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, a 1995 National Book Award finalist. He has also published two novels, *Lizard* and *Lasso the Moon*, and a memoir (with Vicki Covington), *Cleaving: The Story of a Marriage*. His latest book, *Redneck Riviera: Outlaws, Alligators, and the Demise of an American Dream*, is also nonfiction.



His latest book, *Redneck Riviera: Outlaws, Alligators, and the Demise of an American Dream*, is also nonfiction.

Michael Knight, an Alabama native, is the author of a novel, *Divining Rod*, and two short story collections, *Dogfight and Other Stories*, and *Goodnight, Nobody*. Honors and awards for his writing include a New Writing Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers (1999), a PEN/Hemingway Foundation Special Citation (1999), and a Henfield Foundation Award for Fiction (1996). Knight teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.



Eliot Khalil Wilson holds a PhD from the University of Alabama. His poetry has won awards from the Academy of American Poets and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. His first collection, *The Saint of Letting Small Fish Go*, won the 2002 Cleveland State University Poetry Center First Book Competition.



Jennifer S. Davis, an Alabama native, earned her MFA at the University of Alabama and now teaches at Eastern Washington University, where she serves as editor/director of *Willow Springs*. She is the recipient of a Prague Summer Seminars Fellowship in Fiction and a Washington State Artist Trust Fellowship. Her short story collection, *Her Kind of Want*, won the 2002 Iowa Short Fiction Award; a second collection, *Our Former Lives in Art*, is forthcoming from Random House.



Phyllis Alesia Perry was raised in Tuskegee, earned a degree in journalism from the University of Alabama and worked sixteen years as an editor and reporter for Southern newspapers. In 1988 she was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team at *The Alabama Journal*. Her first novel, *Stigmata*, a Quality Book Club New Visions Award nominee, was also published in Great Britain, Germany, Spain, and The Netherlands. Her second novel, *A Sunday in June*, is forthcoming in February 2004.



Tom Franklin won a 1999 Edgar Award for the title story of his first book, *Poachers*, named a Best First Book of Fiction by *Esquire*. His latest book, *Hell at the Breach*, is a novel based on historical events in Clarke County, Alabama. Franklin received a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, and has served as writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi and held the Tennessee Williams Fellowship at Sewanee.



Thomas Rabbitt's tenth collection of poetry, *American Wake: New and Selected Poems*, is forthcoming in 2004. Rabbitt, who taught creative writing at the University of Alabama from 1972 until 1998, has received literature fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

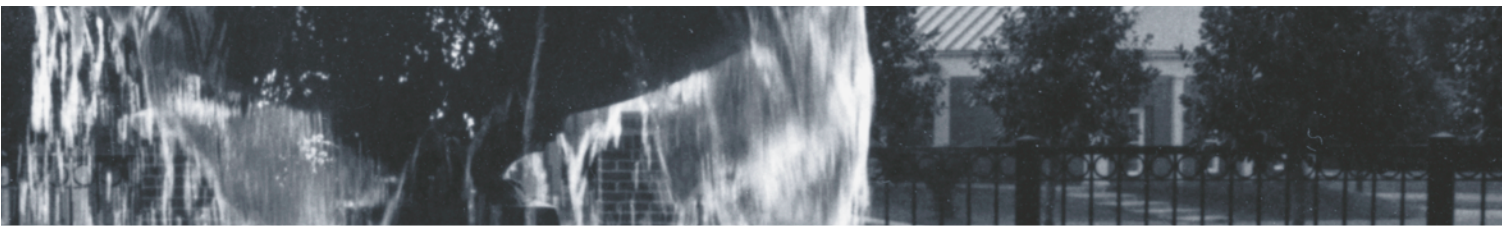


Featured Scholars

Philip Beidler, who received the 1999 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Scholar, is Professor of English at the University of Alabama, where he has taught American literature since receiving his PhD from the University of Virginia in 1974. His recent books include *The Good War's Greatest Hits: World War II and American Remembering*; and *First Books: The Printed Word and Cultural Formation in Early Alabama*. *Late Thoughts on an Old War: The Legacy of Vietnam* is forthcoming in Spring 2004.

Linda Frost is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she specializes in nineteenth-century American writing and culture, feminist theory, and creative writing. She is editor of *PMS: poem-memoir-story*, an annual literary journal of women writers' poems, memoirs, and stories published by the University of Alabama at Birmingham—Alabama's first literary journal exclusively written and edited by women.

Anita Garner, a former member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Speakers Bureau, is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Alabama. Her particular areas of expertise include fiction writing and Southern women writers.



Bert Hitchcock is Hargis Professor of American Literature at Auburn University. He is the co-editor of *American Short Stories* and has contributed entries and essays on American writers to a number of reference books. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, he presently serves on the Executive Committee of South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA). He is also the recipient of the 2001 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar.



Roy Hoffman, a staff writer for the *Mobile Register* with a special interest in the diverse cultures of the South, is author of the non-fiction collection, *Back Home: Journeys Through Mobile*, and the novels *Almost Family*, and the forthcoming *Chicken Dreaming Corn*. He is on the graduate faculty of the Brief Residency MFA in Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, KY.

Jennifer Horne, a poet and freelance writer, earned an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Alabama. Her poems, essays, and reviews have appeared in journals including *Carolina Quarterly* and the *Birmingham Poetry Review*. Her long article on Thomas Rabbitt, "The Dark Vision of Thomas Rabbitt," was published in the *Black Warrior Review*. An edited book of poetry, *Working the Dirt*, came out in 2003.

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.

Derryn Moten is a Humanities professor at Alabama State University, board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum, and history book review editor for *First Draft*. He has served as facilitator for audience discussions with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Theatre in the Mind workshops, and has presented programs on the civil rights movement with the Montgomery and the Tuscaloosa Public Libraries.



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, APRIL 29

6:30-7:30 p.m. Reception for Dinner Guests
Meet the Writers & Scholars
7:30-9:30 p.m. Opening Banquet
"An Evening with Howell Raines"
introduced by Don Noble

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

8:30-9 a.m. Opening Convocation:
"Did That Really Happen?"
Bert Hitchcock
9-11:20 a.m. Author Readings
9-9:35 a.m. Creative Nonfiction
Dennis Covington and Jay Lamar
9:40-10:45 a.m. Poetry
Diann Blakely, Eliot Khalil Wilson,
and Sue Walker
10:50-11:20 a.m. Fiction
Phyllis Alesia Perry and Anita Garner
11:20 a.m.-12 p.m. Book Signing with
Morning Authors

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 2004 and by the Executive Director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2004
Awards sponsored by George F. Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company, Inc.
2:30-3 p.m. Author Reading: Fiction
Michael Knight and Philip Beidler
3:15-4:15 p.m. Editor's Panel
Marc Smirnoff, Mindy Wilson, Linda Frost, Jake Adam York, and Roy Hoffman
4:15-5:15 p.m. Book Signing
5:30-6:45 p.m. Picnic on the Monroeville Courthouse Lawn
7-9 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
7-9 p.m. Live performance of
To Kill a Mockingbird

7:30-9 p.m. Reader's Theatre – Verbatim:
Alabama Stories Dramatized. Theatre students, University of Alabama
8:30-11 p.m. "Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation"

SATURDAY, MAY 1

9-11 a.m. Refreshments on Old Courthouse Lawn
9-11:50 a.m. Book Signing
9-11:30 a.m. Author Readings
9-9:45 a.m. Reading by Harper Lee Award Winner Sonia Sanchez
introduced by Jeanie Thompson
9:50-10:55 a.m. Fiction
Tom Franklin, Jennifer S. Davis, and Don Noble
11-11:30 a.m. Poetry
Thomas Rabbitt and Jennifer Horne
12:15-2 p.m. Luncheon
Keynote Speaker Trudier Harris
introduced by Derryn Moten
2 p.m. Meet the Authors/ Book Signing

Featured Alabama Scholars

Don Noble is Professor of English, Emeritus, at the University of Alabama, recipient of the 2000 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Scholar, book reviewer for Alabama Public Radio, and host of Alabama Public Television's interview program, *Bookmark*. 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. He serves on the boards of the Alabama Writers' Forum and the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Marc Smirnoff founded *The Oxford American* magazine in 1992. He has also edited a number of John Grisham's novels and written book reviews for *The New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Book World*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Memphis Commercial-Appeal*.

Jeanie Thompson 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*. She serves on the faculty of the Spalding University MFA Brief Residency Program. In 2003, The University of Alabama College of Arts and Science Fine Arts Leadership Board recognized her with the Alumni Arts Award for her work as a writer and arts education advocate.



Sue Walker, the Poet Laureate of Alabama, is Chair of the English Department at the University of South Alabama. She is the author of six books of poetry, including *Traveling My Shadow*, *Shorings*, *Blood Will Bear Your Name*, *The Appearance of Green*, and *It's Good Weather for Fudge: Conversations with Carson McCullers*,

and has authored and edited a number of scholarly works. She is currently at work on a book on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Since 1981, she has worked as editor/publisher for Negative Capability Press.

Mindy Wilson, managing editor of the *Gettysburg Review*, holds an MFA from the University of Alabama. She served for two years as general editor of the *Black Warrior Review*, and later served as assistant acquisitions editor at the University of Alabama. She also works as a freelance copyeditor for the University of Georgia Press. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *New Orleans Review* and *Alabama Heritage*; her radio pieces have aired on NPR.

Jake Adam York, an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, is a widely published poet who earned his MFA and PhD at Cornell. An Alabama native, he is a contributing editor to *Shenandoah* and the co-editor of *storySouth*. In cooperation with the Alabama Center for Literary Arts, he is currently working to launch an online journal focusing exclusively on Alabama writers.

2004 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 16, 2004 • 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 _____

2004 REGISTRATION FEES

- Comprehensive Ticket • April 29-May 1\$150**
Includes all meals and events except
To Kill A Mockingbird play on April 30
 - Thursday Ticket • April 29\$50**
Includes reception and
"An Evening with Howell Raines"
 - Friday Ticket • April 30\$60**
Includes awards luncheon, picnic and jazz quartet
 - Saturday Ticket • May 1\$50**
Includes luncheon with Trudier Harris
 - To Kill A Mockingbird* ticket\$25**
Friday, April 30 only
 - Discussion sessions onlyFREE**
- 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\$ _____

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 _____

For more information call Donna Reed, (251) 575-3156, ext. 223/ email: dreed@ascc.edu. or Jim Hilgartner, (251) 575-3156, ext. 226/ email: jhilgartner@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
- Monroe County Bank
- Alabama Power Foundation
- Vanity Fair, Inc.
- United Bank
- NDI's The Cracked Pot
- Radley's Fountain Grille

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 23. Please call the numbers listed below for reservations.

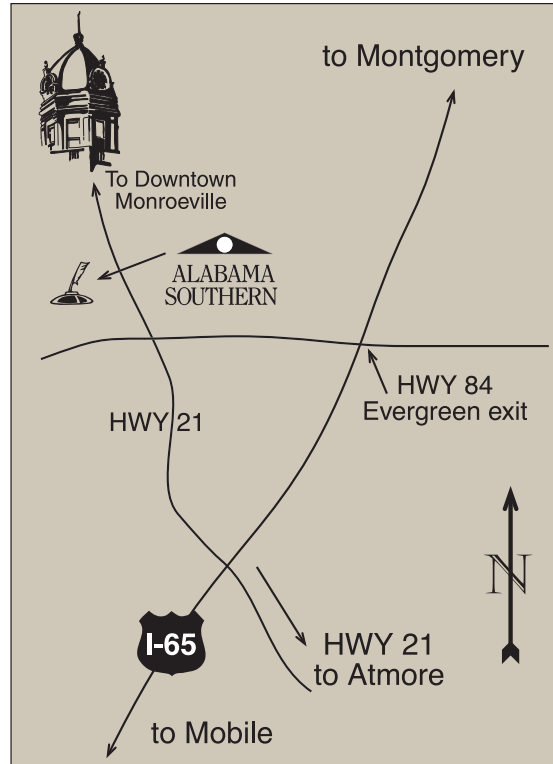
Best Value Inn
\$35.95 plus tax for double, queen, and king rooms
(251) 743-3154
fax: (251) 575-7876

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



ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

*A project of the
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Alabama Southern Community College
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(251) 575-3156, ext. 223