

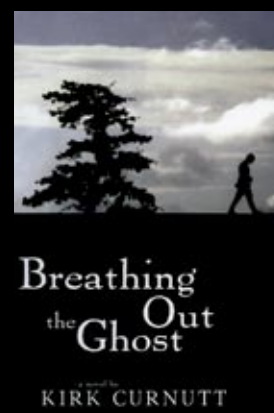
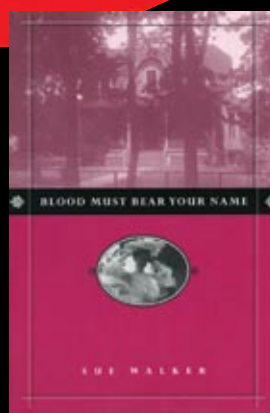
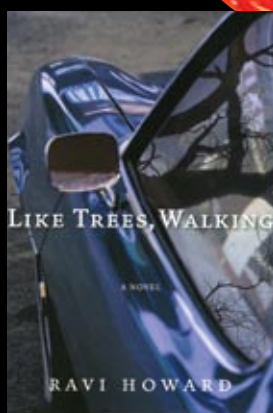
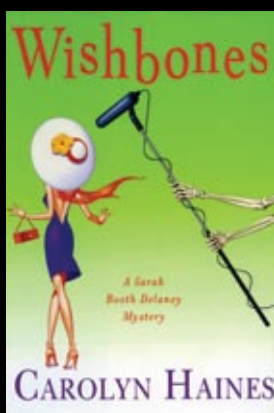
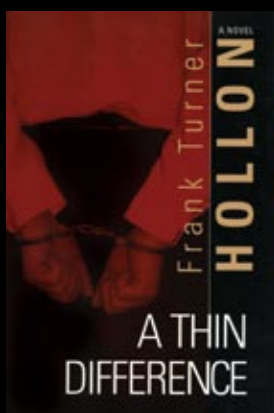
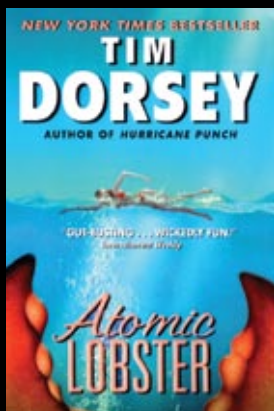
Join us for the 12th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium
April 30 - May 2, 2009 • Monroeville, Alabama

Mystery, Murder, Mayhem & More



A celebration of Alabama writers for those who love to read!

Mystery, Murder, Mayhem & More take the stage for the 12th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium April 30 - May 2, 2009 in Monroeville, Alabama



Albert Einstein once said, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all art and science." This year's slate of Alabama writers, poets, artists, and musicians tap this source for "Mystery, Murder, Mayhem & More" the theme for the 12th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium, April 30 – May 2, 2009, in Monroeville, "The Literary Capital of Alabama." Our writers and poets can weave a tale of intrigue, a "who dunnit" to keep us guessing, with a little murder to make us shudder, and a little mayhem to make it fun. This year's theme will allow the audience a chance to participate in a thriller of a weekend.

The symposium format involves two days of author readings, panel discussions, and literary entertainment, all moderated by some of our state's finest literary scholars. The Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar will be presented at the Friday awards luncheon. In addition to regional, national, and international writers, Alabama artists and musicians and the renowned community theatre production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* will again figure prominently in rounding out the symposium. The program concludes with the Saturday brunch keynote address by two murder/mystery writers who keep their loyal fans holding their breath until their next book is released.

writers & scholars

Nancy Grisham Anderson, an associate professor of English at Auburn University at Montgomery, has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and edited a number of books. She has extensive experience in public programs and with the Alabama Humanities Foundation Speakers' Bureau and its summer workshops, AHF SUPER. She has participated in *Read Alabama!* and *Writing Our Lives*. The 2004 recipient of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award, she is a finalist for the 2009 Brock International Prize in Education.

Philip Beidler is Professor of English at the University of Alabama, where he has taught American literature since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1974. He is a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Fellow and a winner of the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award, the university's highest honor for research. His most recent books are *Late Thoughts on an Old War: the Legacy of Vietnam* (2004), and *American Wars, American Peace: Notes from a Son of the Empire* (2007). Forthcoming is *The Victory Album: Reflections on the Good Life after the Good War*, a personal and social history of growing up in post-World War II America.

Jake Berry is a poet, musician and author of *Brambu Drezi*, *Species of Abandoned Light*, *Drafts of the Sorcery*, and numerous other books. His solo musical albums include *Liminal Blue*, *Strange Parlors*, *Naked as Rain* and *the Animal Beneath*, *Shadow Resolve* and many others. With Bare Knuckles he has recorded three albums, *Trouble In Your House*, *Alabama Dust*, and *Doppelganger Blues*. His ongoing projects include book four of *Brambu Drezi*, a collection of short poems, and an oral online and print biography of the poet and critic Jack Foley.

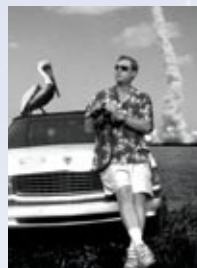
Rick Bragg, the 2009 Harper Lee Award winner, is the best selling and critically acclaimed author of Southern non-fiction, including a trio of books on his Calhoun County family that have become anthems of working-class Americans — *All Over but the Shoutin'* (1998), *Ava's Man* (2001) and *The Prince of Frogtown* (2008). The books, award winners in both literary and audio circles, track one family's conflicts and triumphs across a century of whiskey making, deprivation, fist fights, knife fights and human kindness. 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).

Alan Brown, a professor of English at the University of West Alabama, has published many articles and two literary tour guides. Dr. Brown has written several collections of Southern ghost stories, including *The Face in the Window and Other Alabama Ghostlore*, *Shadows and Cypress*, *Haunted Places in the American South*, and *Stories from the Haunted South*, *Ghost Hunters of the South*, *Haunted Georgia*, *Haunted Texas*. His latest book *Haunted Tennessee* should be published in spring 2009.



Kirk Curnutt's first novel, *Breathing Out the Ghost*, was named Best Fiction in the Indiana Center for the Book's 2008 Best Books of Indiana Competition. Among his other eleven books are the forthcoming Montgomery-based thriller *Dixie Noir* (Fall 2009); *Coffee with Hemingway*, an entry in Duncan Baird's series of imaginary conversations with great historical figures; and the story collection, *Baby, Let's Make a Baby* (2003). The winner of the gold medal in nonfiction writing in the 2008 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition sponsored by the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society, Curnutt was previously awarded three consecutive Hackney Awards for short-story writing (2004-2006) and is past finalist for the Peter Taylor Prize/Tennessee Book Award.

Tim Dorsey, a graduate of Auburn University, is the author of ten novels published in several languages: *Florida Roadkill*, *Hammerhead Ranch Motel*, *Orange Crush*, *Triggerfish Twist*, *The Stingray Shuffle*, *Cadillac Beach*, *Torpedo Juice*, *The Big Bamboo*, *Hurricane Punch* and *Atomic Lobster*. His eleventh book, *Nuclear Jellyfish*, will be released in January 2009. He lives in Tampa with his family.



Robert Gray is the Director of the Program for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of South Alabama, where he also teaches in the English Department. Gray has published two books of poems, *I Wish That I Were Langston Hughes* (2008) and *me & drew & blue water* (2009), both from Negative Capability Press. He was guest poet at the Limestone Dust Poetry Festival in April 2009. He lives in Mobile, AL with his wife, Kim, and two children, Liam and Emma.

John Hafner is a professor of English at Spring Hill College in Mobile. He has taught at Indiana University and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Publications include short stories, poems, travel articles, and reviews of contemporary fiction, as well as scholarly articles on William Faulkner, Christopher Fry, Julia Coley Duncan, and Wallace Stevens. He is co-editor, with Sue Walker and Mary Riser, of *Literary Mobile*.



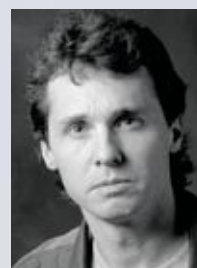
Haines edited a collection of memories about Mobile author, Eugene Walter, titled *Moments with Eugene*, and she is currently editing a collection of short stories set around the Mississippi Delta

Carolyn Haines is the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence. Her latest novel, *Wishbones*, is the 8th in the Sarah Booth Delaney mystery series, which is set in the Mississippi Delta. *Greedy Bones*, the ninth in the series, will be released this summer. Along with Rebecca Barrett,

Blues and a crime/noir element for *Bleak House*. A native of Lucedale, Mississippi, she lives in Semmes, Alabama and teaches graduate and undergraduate fiction writing classes at the University of South Alabama where she is an assistant professor.

Bert Hitchcock served as Head of the English Department and Hargis Professor of American Literature at Auburn University. He has been the co-editor of four editions of the textbook anthology *AMERICAN SHORT STORIES* and has contributed essays on American writers to a number of books and journals. The recipient of the 2001 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar, he served as President of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in 2007.

Frank Turner Hollon has written seven published novels and a children's book: *The Pains of April*, *The God File*, *Life Is A Strange Place*, *A Thin Difference*, *The Point of Fracture*, *blood and circumstance*, *The Wait*, and *Glitter Girl and the Crazy Cheese*. His next novel, *Austin & Emily*, has a publication date of May 1, 2009. Filming on the movie, "Barry Munday," based upon the novel, *Life Is A Strange Place*, is complete, and the film is currently in post-production awaiting release. Frank lives in Baldwin County, Alabama, with his wife and children.



Jennifer Horne grew up in Arkansas and has lived in Alabama since 1986. She is the editor of *Working the Dirt: An Anthology of Southern Poets* (NewSouth Books, 2003) and co-editor, with Wendy Reed, of *All Out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality* (University of Alabama Press, 2006).

A book of poems, *Bottle Tree*, is forthcoming in early 2010. Other publications include a poetry chapbook, *Miss Betty's School of Dance* (1997), and poems, short stories, and reviews in numerous journals, mostly Southern. Horne is the recipient of the Alabama State Council on the Arts Literature Fellowship (Poetry), 2008.

Ravi Howard is the author of the novel *Like Trees, Walking*, a fictionalized account of a true story, the 1981 lynching of a black teenager in Mobile, Alabama. Howard was a finalist for both the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction in 2008. Also in 2008, the novel won the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence and the Outstanding Southeastern Author-Fiction Award from the Southeastern Library Association. He has received fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Hurston-Wright Foundation, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and the New Jersey Council on the Arts. He currently lives in Mobile with his wife.





Hank Lazer has published 14 books of poetry, including *The New Spirit* (2005), *Elegies & Vacations* (2004), and *Days* (2002). Lazer's poetry has been nominated for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize and the 2004 Forward Prize. With Charles Bernstein, he edits the Modern and Contemporary Poetics Series for the University of Alabama Press.

His essays on innovative poetry, new modes of lyricism, and representations of spiritual experience have appeared in journals including *Facture*, *The Boston Review*, *Jacket*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Talisman*. In 2008, Omnidawn published *Lyric & Spirit: Selected Essays, 1996-2008*. Lazer is a Professor of English at the University of Alabama where he also serves as the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Lazer's newest collection of poetry, *Portions*, will be published in spring 2009.



In 1998, **Allison Moorer's** song "A Soft Place To Fall" was selected for inclusion on the soundtrack for the major motion picture *The Horse Whisperer*. It garnered rave reviews as well as an appearance in the film itself, resulting in an Academy Award nomination for the song as well as a performance on the award telecast. Moorer has released four critically acclaimed records, including her latest 2008 album, *Mockingbird*. For the past year, she has been touring worldwide with her husband, the legendary songwriter Steve Earle. She also recently received her first Grammy Award nomination for her vocal work on his latest album, *Washington Square Serenade*. In early 2008, Moorer was featured in Howard Zinn and Anthony Arnone's *Rebel Voices*, the theatrical production based on their best-selling book *Voices of a People's History of the United States*.

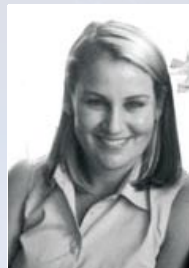
Don Noble is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Alabama, host of Alabama Public Television's author interview program *Bookmark* and book reviewer for Alabama Public Radio's *Alabama Bound*. He won an Emmy for outstanding Collaborative Achievement in Writing from the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, with Brent Davis, for a 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 board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum and the Alabama Humanities Foundation.



Julia Oliver, Montgomery novelist and journalist, is a founding board member of the Alabama Writers' Forum and a former book review editor for *First Draft*. Her most recent novel, *Devotion* (University of Georgia Press), which is based on the life of Winnie Davis, the iconic daughter of President of the

Confederacy Jefferson Davis, received the 2007 John Esten Cooke Fiction Award and was a Finalist for *ForeWord Magazine's* Best Books List. Oliver is the author of a collection of short fiction, *Seventeen Times as High as the Moon*; novels *Goodbye to the Buttermilk Sky*, which became a Book of the Month Club Quality Paperback selection, and *Music of Falling Water*, which was nominated for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize; and numerous essays, stories, articles, and reviews. Currently, Oliver is writing a stage play based on Mary Stanton's acclaimed book, *Journey Toward Justice*, about Juliette Hampton Morgan and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Jennifer Paddock is the author of the novels *A Secret Word* and *Point Clear*, both published by Touchstone/Simon & Schuster. She received a M.A. in creative writing from New York University, and her short fiction and nonfiction has appeared in *Stories From The Blue Moon Cafe*, *The North American Review*, *Other Voices*, and *Garden and Gun*. She is the recipient of a 2008-2009 literature fellowship grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and lives in Point Clear, Alabama, with her husband, the writer Sidney Thompson.



Tito Perdue has been called "one of the most important contemporary Southern writers we have." His body of work includes *Lee*, *Fields of Asphodel*, *New Austerities*, *The Sweet Scented Manuscript*, and *Opportunities in Alabama Agriculture*. His work has received critical acclaim. Perdue was born in Chile, South America. He holds degrees from The University of Texas and Indiana University.

Gin Phillips is a freelance writer who lives in Birmingham. *The Well and the Mine* is her first novel. It was named a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and has received the 2009 Alabama Library Association's Award for Fiction. Phillips' nonfiction work has been published in *Preservation*, *American Profile*, *Woman's World*, *Frontier* magazine, and *Southern Living*.



Michael Pfafsky is currently an assistant professor and director of the writing program at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He received his PhD from the University of Missouri and his MA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins. Michael also worked in advertising and served as interview and contest editors on *The Missouri Review*. His work can be found most recently in *Jabberwock Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Meridian* and *Bar Stories*.

Jeannie Thompson is founding Executive Director of the Alabama Writers' Forum, and author of

the poetry collections *White for Harvest: New and Selected Poems*, *Witness*, and *How to Enter the River*, and the chapbooks *Lotus and Psalm*, *Ascent*, and *Litany for a Vanishing Landscape*. She co-edited *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs of Alabama Writers* and the Writing Our Stories Curriculum Guide. Thompson's poems, essays, features, book reviews, and interviews with writers have appeared widely in literary journals and other publications. She has received literature fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Louisiana Arts Council, and in 2003 The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Fine Arts Leadership Board named her Alumni Artist of the Year for her work as a writer and arts education advocate. Thompson is a poetry faculty member of the Brief Residency MFA Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Poet Laureate of Alabama, **Sue Brannan Walker** is known nationally and internationally for her poetry. Walker's poetry, prose works, and community service have deservedly garnered numerous awards, grants, and fellowships. She has published six volumes of poetry with



a new collection published this year. Walker also serves as the Stokes Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Alabama.

featured artists

Charles Smith is a well-known Mobile, Alabama potter who began his career in the early 1970's. Since that time, Smith has won some 25 first place or Best of Show awards for his work. He has exhibited all over the country, including the National Museum of American Art in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and the American Craft Museum in New York City. His style is derived from realistic and Art Nouveau forms, mixed with and interspersed with abstract animal imagery. While the size and shape of each piece is unique, it is the hand-carved surface that distinguishes his work. "They are the shapes and patterns of nature, and until Mother Nature finds it necessary to rediscover herself, I'll remain content following her lead."



After a Honorable Mention Award from the Alabama Watercolor Society, self-taught, African-American artist **Keith Newby** was commissioned to paint a mural for the G.W.C. Interpretive Museum in his hometown of Dothan, Alabama. Since then his original landscapes, portraits and still life of the rural South, both past and present, grace the walls of art lovers and collectors around the globe.

schedule of events

Events will be held on the campus of Alabama Southern Community College, at the Monroeville Community House and the Old Courthouse 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 30, 2009

1-5 p.m. Registration & Exhibit of Alabama Artists
6:30-7:30 p.m. Reception for dinner guests & musical performance by Southern Exposé.
7:30-9:30 p.m. Opening Banquet with mystery writer Tim Dorsey, introduced by Bert Hitchcock

Friday, May 1, 2009

8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration and Literary Coffee House
8:30-11:55 a.m. Morning Sessions
8:30-9:15 a.m. Opening Convocation with novelist Tito Perdue with scholar and moderator Don Noble
9:20-9:50 a.m. Writer Kirk Curnutt with scholar and moderator Mike Piafsky
9:55 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:20- 10:50 a.m. Alabama State Council on the Arts Literature Fellowship Recipients: Jennifer Horne and Jennifer Paddock with scholar and moderator Robert Gray
10:55-11:25 a.m. Author Ravi Howard with scholar and moderator Alan Brown
11:30-11:55 a.m. Author Gin Phillips with scholar and moderator Nancy Anderson
12:15-2:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon: Presentation of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2009 and of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2009
2:30-4:30 p.m. Afternoon Sessions
2:30-3:00 p.m. Author Julia Oliver with moderator Phil Beidler
3:10-3:50 p.m. Poets Hank Lazer and Jake Berry with scholar and moderator Sue Walker
3:55-4:45 p.m. Singer/Songwriter Allison Mooror
4:50-5:30 p.m. Book Signing in the Library

5:35-6:50 p.m. Picnic on the Old Courthouse lawn in downtown Monroeville
Concurrent Sessions:
7:00-9:00 p.m. Live performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*
7:00-8:30 p.m. Reader's Theatre
8:30-11:00 p.m. "Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation" at Beehive Coffee & Books

Saturday, May 2, 2009

8:30 -10:30 a.m. Light Refreshments and Morning Sessions at the Old Courthouse
8:45-9:15 a.m. Poet Jeanie Thompson with scholar and poet Sue Brannan Walker
9:30-10:30 a.m. Harper Lee Award winner, Rick Bragg, with scholar and moderator Jeanie Thompson
10:45-12:30 p.m. Concluding Brunch at the Monroeville Community House with mystery writers Carolyn Haines and Frank Turner Hollon, moderated by John Hafner

2009 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 17, 2009 • 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 _____

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 _____

For more information call Donna Reed (251) 575-8223/ Fax: (251) 575-5356 email: dreed@ascc.edu

Visit our website at www.writerssymposium.org for symposium updates and registration information

2009 REGISTRATION FEES

☐ Comprehensive Ticket • April 30-May 2\$150
Includes all meals and events except
To Kill a Mockingbird play on May 1

☐ Thursday Ticket • April 30 \$50
Includes reception and "An Evening with
Tim Dorsey"

☐ Friday Ticket • May 1 \$60
Includes awards luncheon, picnic and more

☐ Saturday Ticket • May 2 \$50
Includes brunch

☐ *To Kill a Mockingbird* ticket \$35
Friday, May 1 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 Sponsors

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

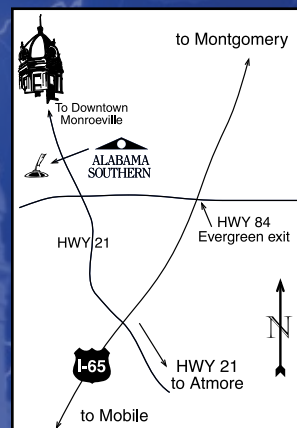
The Symposium is sponsored by:

- Alabama Southern Community College
- George Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company, Inc.
- Alabama Humanities Foundation
- Alabama State Council on the Arts
- BankTrust
- Alabama Power Foundation
- United Bank
- 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



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 double, queen, and king rooms
- Days Inn • (251) 743-3297
\$65.95 plus tax for single and double rooms
- Monroeville Inn • (251) 575-3312
\$35 for king rooms; \$40 for double rooms; plus tax

Other available hotels in the area:

- Best Value Inn • (251) 743-3154
\$45 and up (plus tax) for single and double rooms
- Holiday Inn Express • (251) 743-3333
\$110 and up (plus tax) for double or king rooms



ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

A project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts

Alabama Southern Community College
P.O. Box 2000 • Monroeville, AL 36461
(251) 575-8223 • www.ascc.edu