



Literature on Location
THE MUSE OF PLACE

Alabama Writers Symposium
April 29-May 1, 2010 • Monroeville, Alabama



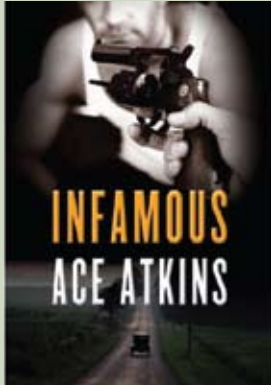
Literature on Location: The Muse of Place

13th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium

April 29 - May 1, 2010

"No place is a place until things that have happened in it are remembered in history, ballads, yarns, legends, and monuments."

– Wallace Stegner, American writer and historian

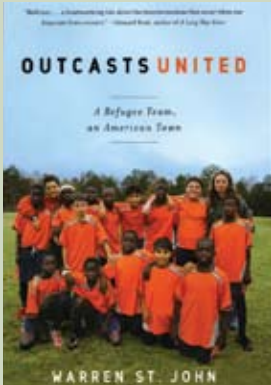


Mark your calendar now to attend the Alabama Writers Symposium, Alabama's premier event for those who love to read! The 13th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium, *Literature on Location – The Muse of Place*, showcases a slate of writers, poets, artists, and musicians who recognize that place and space and their sense of belonging are intertwined with the fabric of their literature. From the semi-fictional to the nonfictional, place often plays a substantial role in Southern literature; place gives substance to characters, and writers give substance to place.



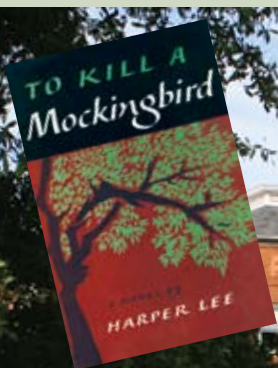
Writers featured this year include Ace Atkins, whose childhood in San Francisco sends him back there for his work *Devil's Garden*; Ralph Eubanks, whose *House at the End of the Road* describes his biracial family's haven from a hostile world in South Alabama; and Birmingham native Warren St. John, who focuses on immigrants to Clarkston, Georgia and their amazing transformation in this small town. Linking to the Alabama Tourism theme "The Year of Small Towns and Downtowns," this year's symposium also pays homage to the 50th anniversary of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The symposium format involves two days of author readings, panel discussions, and literary entertainment, all facilitated by some of our state's finest literary scholars. 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.



Congratulations to Carolyn Haines, winner of the 2010 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer and Ralph Voss, winner of the 2010 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar. Both awards will be presented Friday, April 30, at the Awards Luncheon.

For symposium updates visit www.writerssymposium.org or look for Alabama Southern Community College on Facebook



Don't miss out!
2010 is special!
We are celebrating
the 50th anniversary of
To Kill a Mockingbird.

featured writers



photo credit: Jay E. Nolan

ACE ATKINS' novels tell great American stories, weaving fact and fiction into a colorful, seamless tapestry. His eighth novel, *Infamous*, releases Spring 2010 from G.P. Putnam's Sons. A former journalist who cut his teeth as a crime reporter in the newsroom of *The Tampa Tribune*, he published his first novel, *Crossroad Blues*, at 27 and became a full-time novelist at 30. While at the *Tribune*, Ace earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination for a feature series based on his investigation into a forgotten murder of the 1950s. The story became the core of his critically acclaimed novel, *White Shadow*, which earned raves from noted authors and critics.

TED M. DUNAGAN is the author of *The Yellow Watermelon*, an Accelerated Reader book, which will fit the bill for any avid young booklover. Dunagan was born in 1943 in rural southwestern Alabama, and he attended Georgia State University. He writes features and columns for *The Monticello News* in Monticello, Georgia. Ted Dunagan was named Georgia Author of the Year by the Georgia Writers' Association.

W. RALPH EUBANKS' latest work is *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*. Eubanks is also the author of *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past* (Basic Books), which *Washington Post* book critic Jonathan Yardley named as one of the best nonfiction books of 2003. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post* Outlook and Style sections, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Preservation*, and *National Public Radio*.

PAUL GASTON, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Virginia, was born and reared in Fairhope, Alabama, about which he has written two books. He is also the author of *The New South Creed*, winner of the Lillian Smith Award for distinguished writing about the South. He has received numerous honors for both his professional work and civil rights leadership, including the outstanding professor award from the Commonwealth of Virginia; legendary civil rights activist from the NAACP; and community leader from his alma mater, Swarthmore College.

CAROLYN HAINES, the 2010 Harper Lee Award winner, is the author of ten books in the popular Sara Booth Delaney "Bones" mystery series. Her latest, *Bone Appetit*, will be released in June by Minotaur Books. She recently edited *Delta Blues*, a collection of short stories set around the Mississippi Delta blues. Along with Rebecca Barrett, Haines also edited a collection of memories about Mobile author, Eugene Walter, titled *Moments with Eugene*. She teaches graduate and undergraduate fiction writing classes at the University of South Alabama where she is an assistant professor.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON has covered the South for over three decades as a newspaper reporter and columnist. Syndicated by King Features of New York, Johnson's column appears in about 50 papers nationwide. Her most recent book, *Enchanted Evening Barbie and the Second Coming: A Memoir*, releases Spring 2010 from New South Books. She is also the author of *Poor Man's Provence: Finding Myself in Cajun Louisiana* (2008), *America's Faces* (1987) and *Good Grief: The Story of Charles M. Schulz* (1989). Johnson grew up in Montgomery and studied journalism at Auburn University.



WILLIE JAMES KING: "From an Alabama boyhood to an adulthood of serious soul-searching, the poems of Willie James King roam but never wander. These focused blasts of lyricism combine tones and dictions and hit the high Cs. Whether in the sweet-potato field, at the lectern, or gazing into the waters of the Cahawba river, King learns where he is most himself, 'in this deep / lull of love.'" — Alan Michael Parker

JIM NOLES is the author of several non-fiction books, most recently *Mighty by Sacrifice: The Destruction of an American Bomber Squadron, August 29, 1944* (2009) and *A Pocketful of History: Four Hundred Years of America -- One State Quarter at a Time* (2008). A graduate of the United States Military Academy and the University of Texas School of Law, he currently practices environmental law in Birmingham.

LINDA BUSBY PARKER is the author of an award-winning novel, *Seven Laurels* (James Jones First Novel Award and the Langum Prize for Historical Fiction). She has published book reviews in the *San Diego Union Tribune*, the *Mobile Press Register*, and *First Draft*. Parker has served as a Tennessee Williams Scholar in Fiction at the Sewanee Summer Writing Conference and as the Fletcher Pratt Fellow in Fiction at the Bread Loaf Summer Writers Conference.



WENDY REED writes, produces, and directs at the Center for Public Television and Radio at the University of Alabama. Her TV productions include *Bookmark*, the award-winning *Discovering Alabama*, and several documentaries. She received the Lincoln Unity Award in Media for *A Closer Look: The Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind*. An anthology *All Out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality*, co-edited with Jennifer Horne, was published in 2006 by The University of Alabama Press and a second anthology is forthcoming in 2010.

MICHELLE RICHMOND'S latest novel, *No One You Know*, is a "thoroughly riveting literary thriller" (*Booklist*, starred review) about two sisters, an unsolved murder, an ancient mathematical puzzle and the power of stories to shape our lives. Michelle's first novel, *Dream of the Blue Room*, has been released from Random House in a new paperback edition. Michelle is also the author of *The Year of Fog* and the award-winning story collection *Girl in the Fall Away Dress*.



photo credit: Misty Richmond

PHILIP SHIRLEY recently published a cultural history and in-depth look at the baseball bat brand which became an American icon. Titled *Sweet Spot: 125 Years of Baseball and the Louisville Slugger*, the book is co-authored by David Magee, with a foreword by Ken Griffey, Jr. His collection of short stories, *Oh Don't You Cry for Me*, was published in spring 2008.



WARREN ST. JOHN'S latest book *Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town* (2009) was released to rave reviews. Warren has written for the *New Yorker*, *Slate*, *Wired* and the *New York Observer*, in addition to his work in *The New York Times*. His research for *Outcasts United* led to an acclaimed series of front-

page stories in the *The New York Times* about the Fugees and the struggle of Clarkston to adapt to its new identity. He is also the author of *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip into the Heart of Fan Mania*.

JEANIE 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*. Thompson's poems, essays, features, book reviews, and interviews with writers have appeared widely in literary journals and other publications. Thompson is a poetry faculty member of the Brief Residency MFA Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mobile native **CARLA WILLIAMS** has an instantly recognizable voice that combines a very beautiful and subtle expressiveness with a powerful, emotional and honest delivery. Carla's first CD, *I'm Home*, is full of pop colored country songs that feature the talents of legendary composer Steve Dorff and gifted lyricist and producer Milton Brown.



featured scholars

NANCY GRISHAM ANDERSON, Associate Professor of English at Auburn University at Montgomery, has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and edited a number of books. She has participated in Read Alabama! and Writing Our Lives. The 2004 recipient of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award, she was a finalist for the 2009 Brock International Prize in Education.

DARYL BROWN, Associate Professor of English at the University of North Alabama, teaches undergraduate and graduate creative writing courses. His works have appeared in *New Stories of the South: The Best of 2000* and the *Utne Reader*. He has served as faculty advisor for *Lights & Shadows*, UNA's art and literary magazine. Brown is a member of the Alabama Writers' Forum and the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers.

ANITA MILLER GARNER, Associate Professor of English at the University of North Alabama, previously taught fiction writing at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her collection of short fiction *Undeniable Truths* was released in November, and her chapter on the fictive voice noir in the work of Eudora Welty is forthcoming this fall in a book on Welty from University of Georgia Press.

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* and *me & drew & blue water*.

JOHN HAFNER is 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 numerous scholarly articles. He is co-editor, with Sue Walker and Mary Riser, of *Literary Mobile*. He is the recipient of the 2009 Eugene Current-Garcia Award.

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, he served as President of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in 2007.

JENNIFER HORNE is the editor of *Working the Dirt: An Anthology of Southern Poets* and co-editor, with Wendy Reed, of *All Out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality*. A book of poems, *Bottle Tree*, is forthcoming in early 2010. Other publications include a poetry chapbook, *Miss Betty's School of Dance*, and poems, short stories, and reviews in numerous journals. Horne is the recipient of the Alabama State Council on the Arts Literature Fellowship (Poetry), 2008.

DOUGLAS MITCHELL, Associate Professor of Humanities at the University of Mobile, is the author of *A Disturbing and Alien Memory: Southern Novelists Writing History*, published by Louisiana State University Press (2008). His works have also appeared in the *Explicator*, *Southern Literary Journal*, and *Legal Studies Forum*.

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. He is the recipient of the 2000 Eugene Current-Garcia Award.

JACQUELINE ALLEN TRIMBLE is Associate Professor of English and the chairperson of Language and Literature at Huntingdon College. She has won several teaching and writing awards, including the Exemplary Teacher Award, The Todd Award for Outstanding Teaching, The Julia Lightfoot Sellers Award, and The University of Alabama's Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award.

RALPH F. VOSS, the 2010 winner of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award, is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Alabama, where he specialized in Composition and American Drama. He has written *The Strains of Triumph*, a biography of the Kansas playwright William Inge, and other books and articles about writing and drama. He is currently preparing a book, *Truman Capote and the Legacy of In Cold Blood*, to be published by the University of Alabama Press.

SUE WALKER is the Poet Laureate of Alabama, 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.



Artists



works by Charlie Lucas

Don't miss the regional art displays in the Alabama Southern Community College library and at the Monroeville Community House.

Artists include Lolita Dickenson, Faye Bennett, Sharon Dozier, Charlie Lucas, Wendy Slaton, Mike Handley, Judy McLean, Steven James, Cam Walker and Tyree McCloud.

Many of the works are available for purchase at the Black Belt Treasures Gallery in Camden, Alabama or online at www.blackbelttreasures.com.

Accommodations

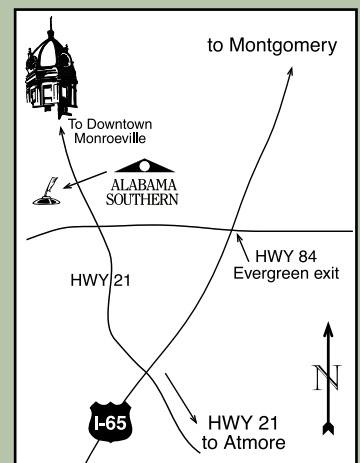
Monroeville is easily accessible from Interstate 65 and Highway 84. The hotels listed are conveniently located on Highway 21. For reservations, please call the hotels directly.

The following hotels will hold a block of rooms:

- **Best Western** • (251) 575-9999
\$59.95 plus tax for double, queen & king rooms
- **Days Inn** • (251) 743-3297
\$59.95 plus tax for single & 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
\$50 and up (plus tax) for single and double rooms
- **Holiday Inn Express** • (251) 743-3333
\$95 and up (plus tax) for double or king rooms



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 29, 2010

1:00 -5:00 p.m. Registration & Exhibit of Alabama Artists, ASCC Auditorium
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception for dinner guests & musical performance by Southern Exposé, Monroeville Community House
7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Opening Banquet with Warren St. John, introduced by Don Noble

10:20-10:50 a.m. Author Paul Gaston with moderator Douglas Mitchell, ASCC Auditorium
10:55- 11:25 a.m. Author Willie James King with moderator Sue Walker, ASCC Library
11:30 – 11:55 a.m. Book Signing, ASCC Library
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Harper Lee & Eugene Current-Garcia Award Presentation/Luncheon, Monroeville Community House

5:30-6:30 p.m. Picnic on the Monroeville Courthouse Lawn, Old Courthouse
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Live performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Old Courthouse
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Readers' Theatre, Beehive Coffee & Books
8:30 – 11:00 p.m. Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation, Beehive Coffee & Books

Friday, April 30, 2010

8:00-8:45 a.m. Opening Convocation with author Ralph Eubanks and moderator Jacqueline Trimble, ASCC Auditorium
8:50-9:20 a.m. Author Philip Shirley with moderator Daryl Brown, ASCC Auditorium
9:25- 9:55 a.m. Panel discussion on personal/memoir writing with Linda Busby Parker, Wendy Reed and Jeanie Thompson with moderator Jennifer Horne, ASCC Auditorium
10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Author Ted Dunagan with moderator Nancy Anderson, ASCC Auditorium
3:05-3:35 p.m. Author Rheta Grimsley Johnson with moderator Anita Garner, ASCC Auditorium
3:40-4:10 p.m. Author Jim Noles with moderator Rob Gray, ASCC Auditorium
4:15- 5:00 p.m. Musical Presentation by Carla Williams, ASCC Auditorium
5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Book Signing, ASCC Library

Saturday, May 1, 2010

8:15- 8:40 a.m. Anita Miller Garner, Old Courthouse
8:45 – 9:15 a.m. Author Michelle Richmond with moderator Jay Lamar, Old Courthouse
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Author Carolyn Haines with moderator John Hafner, Old Courthouse
10:30- 10: 45 a.m. Book Signing, Old Courthouse
10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Closing Brunch, Author Ace Atkins with moderator Bert Hitchcock, Monroeville Community House

2010 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 16, 2010 • 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.

2010 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 Warren St. John"
- Friday Ticket • April 30 \$60
Includes awards luncheon, picnic and more
- Saturday Ticket • May 1 \$50
Includes brunch
- To Kill a Mockingbird* ticket \$35
Friday, April 30 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 \$ _____

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



ALABAMA WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

A project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts

Alabama Southern Community College
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Alabama Writers Symposium
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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 Museum • Monroeville/Monroe County Area Chamber of Commerce

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