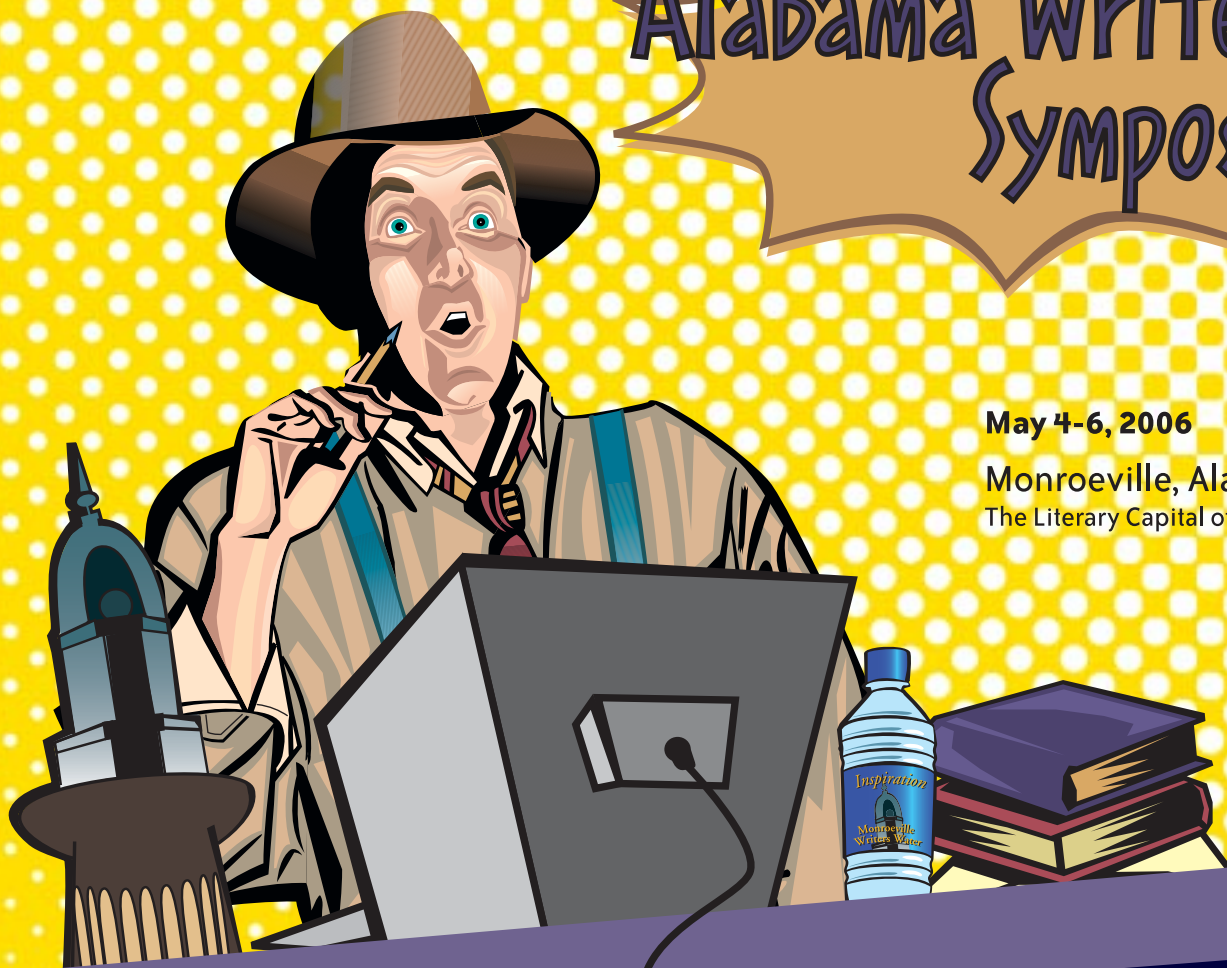


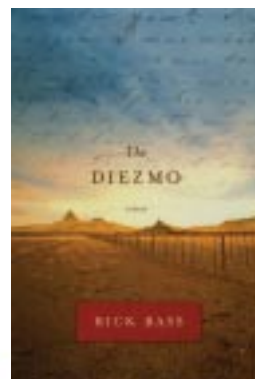
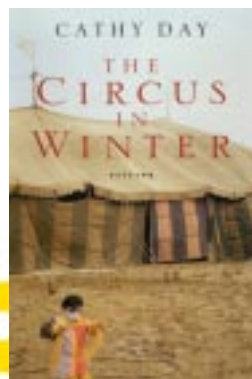
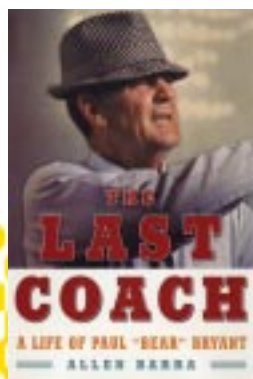
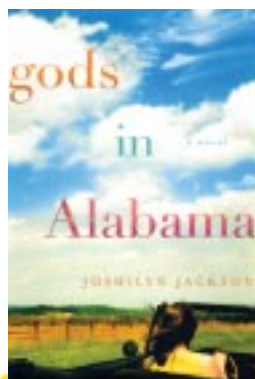
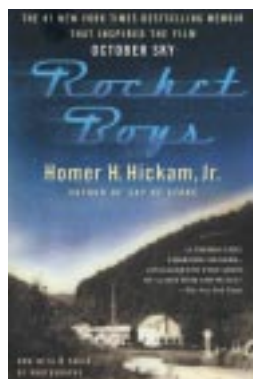
# Action! Adventure! ALABAMA!

## NINTH ANNUAL Alabama Writers Symposium

May 4-6, 2006

Monroeville, Alabama  
The Literary Capital of Alabama



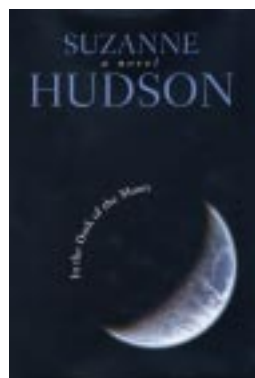
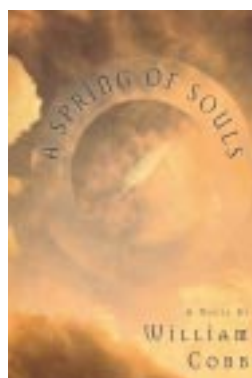
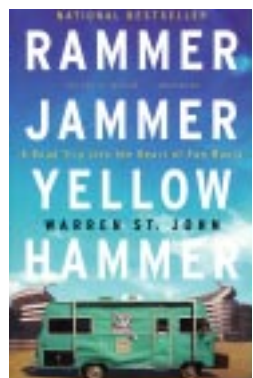
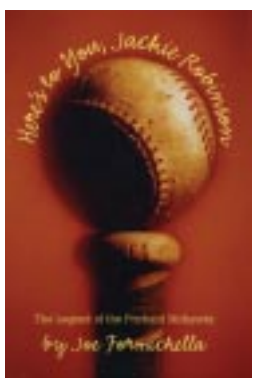
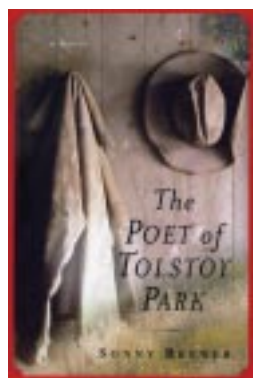


## Get ready for Action! Adventure! Alabama! at the ninth annual Alabama Writers Symposium May 4-6, 2006, in Monroeville, Alabama

The ninth annual Alabama Writers Symposium will continue its recognition and celebration of Alabama writers and scholars May 4-6, 2006, in Monroeville, "The Literary Capital of Alabama." The 2006 theme is "Action! Adventure! Alabama!"

Although highbrow writers and literary scholars seem to dismiss work with dramatic action or an adventurous theme, if one opens one's mind, one sees that these concepts are essential to good writing. *Action* is the basis of every verb; *adventure* is the essence of life itself. Instead of demanding whether a work is driven by action and adventure and thus "commercial" and "escapist," readers, writers, and scholars might better ask: "What kind of action do we have here? What sort of adventure have we embarked upon?"

Contemporary Alabama literature investigates action and adventure at every level of the human experience, and the ninth annual Alabama Writers Symposium will explore and celebrate the scope and range of these investigations.



# Writers & Scholars

## Featured Alabama Writers

**ALLEN BARRA** is a long time contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *Salon.com*, and the *New York Sun*. He is a contributing writer for *American Heritage* magazine and is the author of *Inventing Wyatt Earp: His Life and Many Legends*; *Clearing The Bases – The Greatest Baseball Debates of The Last Century*, selected by *Sports Illustrated* as one of the best sports books of 2002; and *Big Play: Barra on Football*. His newest book is *The Last Coach — A Life of Paul "Bear" Bryant*.



**RICK BASS** is the author of over twenty books, including short story collections, novels, and works of nonfiction. His most recent publication is an historical novel, *The Diezmo*. Other recent works of fiction include *The Hermit's Story: Stories and Where the Sea Used to Be*. Bass's nonfiction publications include *Caribou Rising: Defending the Porcupine Herd*, *Gwich-'in Culture, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*; *The Roadless Yaak: Reflections and Observations About One of Our Last Great Wilderness Areas*; *Colter: The True Story of the Best Dog I Ever Had*; *Brown Dog of the Yaak: Essays on Art and Activism*; and *The New Wolves*. Bass currently lives and works in the Yaak Valley in Montana.

**SONNY BREWER** owns Over the Transom Bookstore in Fairhope, Alabama, and is board chairman of the Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts. He is the author of two novels, *The Poet of Tolstoy Park* and *Like Light around a Bend in the River*, and serves as editor of the acclaimed annual anthology series *Stories from the Blue Moon Café: Anthologies of Southern Writers*. Brewer is also the series editor of *The Alumni Grill*, each installment featuring a guest editor. The first volume is edited by William Gay & Suzanne Kingsbury. Brewer's other books include *Rembrandt the Rocker*, an illustrated parable on aging; *A Yin for Change*, a book of "dime-store" philosophy; and a ghost-written biography of Clarence Darrow. Brewer is the former editor-in-chief of *Mobile Bay Monthly*; he also published & edited *The Eastern Shore Quarterly* magazine and edited *Red Bluff Review Volume One*.

**WILLIAM COBB** has published six novels and a collection of short stories. His novel *A Walk Through Fire* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and his collection of short fiction, *Somewhere In All This Green*, was named Fiction Book of the Year by the Alabama Library Association. His newest book is a re-issue of his second novel, *The Hermit King*, along with five new short stories.



**CATHY DAY**, author of the short story cycle *The Circus in Winter*, was born in Peru, Indiana, once winter quarters for several traveling circuses. Her great-great uncle, Henry Hoffman, was an elephant trainer, and another uncle, Bernie Wallace, was known as the fastest ticket taker in the country. Her fiction and non-fiction have appeared in *New Stories from the South*, *Story*, *Antioch Review*, *Southern Review*, *Shenandoah*, and elsewhere. *The Circus in Winter* was a finalist for the Great Lakes Book Award, the Story Prize and the GLBA New Writers' Award; the book was also one of Amazon.com's "Best Books of 2004," a Barnes & Noble "Discover" pick, and an "Original Voices" selection at Borders. The recipient of a Bush Artist Fellowship and a New Jersey Arts Council Grant, Day earned her MFA at the University of Alabama and teaches in the graduate writing program at the University of Pittsburgh.



**JOE FORMICHELLA** won a Hackney Award for the short story "Tickets" in 1993; "Water Marks" was a finalist for the New Letters Literary Prize that same year. Other short fiction has appeared in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café*, *The Alumni Grill*, and *Climbing Mt. Cheaha*. His

first novel, *The Wreck of the Twilight Limited*, was released in 2004. It was followed in 2005 by a work of nonfiction, *Here's To You, Jackie Robinson: The Legend of the Prichard Mohawks*. He lives in Baldwin County and is at work on several projects.

**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 Breech*, 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.

**WAYNE GREENHAW** studied writing in San Miguel de Allende and at the University of Alabama under Hudson Strode. He has published sixteen books of fiction and nonfiction, worked on prize-winning television productions, worked as editor and publisher of the *Alabama* magazine, taught journalism and creative writing, and written two plays that were produced. Awarded a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University, he has been honored by the Associated Press and Sigma Delta Chi, and serves as a director for the Alabama Humanities Foundation.



Greenhaw was the first journalist to write about Lieutenant William Calley and the My Lai massacre, first in *The Alabama Journal* and later in his 1971 book *The Making of a Hero: The Story of Lieutenant William Calley Jr.* His latest book, *The Thunder of Angels: The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the People Who Broke the Back of Jim Crow*, was published in 2005. He is the winner of the 2006 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer.

**HOMER HICKAM** is the author of eight books, all best-sellers, including the acclaimed memoir *Rocket Boys*, which was made into the film *October Sky*. *Rocket Boys* is studied in hundreds of schools and is popular around the world. After graduating from college as an engineer, Homer began a life of adventure. He served in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He was a scuba instructor and expert wreck diver. He trained astronauts and designed spacecraft for NASA. He is an amateur paleontologist who recently discovered a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. Homer is an author who isn't afraid to take chances. Rather than stick to his successful memoirs, he began the "Josh Thurlow" series of novels, which have gained him new readers who love insightful, romantic tales of adventure. Homer and his wife Linda and their four cats share their time between homes in Huntsville, Alabama, and the Virgin Islands.



**SUZANNE HUDSON**, as a graduate student, won a Hackney Award followed by a national prize for short fiction and publication in *Penthouse* magazine with the story "LaPrade." Her short story collection, *Opposable Thumbs*, was published in 2001 and was a finalist for the John Gardner Fiction Book Award. She has also been published in *Stories from the Blue Moon Café*, *The Alumni Grill*, *Climbing Mt. Cheaha*, and *A Kudzu Christmas*. Her first novel, *In a Temple of Trees*, debuted in September 2003, and a second, *In the Dark of the Moon*, published in 2004, will be released as a paperback this May.

**JOSHILYN JACKSON** was born and raised in the Deep South and spent her early years pursuing a career as an actor and playwright. She later returned to school to study writing and literature, focusing on Modern and Medieval Theater, and received her M.A. from the



University of Illinois at Chicago. She is now a full-time novelist. Her first novel, *gods in Alabama*, was a bestseller and a number one Book Sense pick. Her short fiction has appeared in literary magazines and anthologies including *TriQuarterly* and *Calyx*, and her second novel, *Between, Georgia*, is forthcoming in July 2006. She lives with her husband and two children outside of Atlanta, where she is hard at work on her third novel.

**LEAH NIELSEN** was raised in Norge and Williamsburg, Virginia. A graduate of Syracuse University and the University of Alabama, she currently teaches in Tuscaloosa. Her poems have recently appeared in *Cream City Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Passages North* and *Puerto Del Sol*. *No Magic*, her first collection of poems, was released by Word Press, Cincinnati, in August of 2005. She lives in Tuscaloosa with her husband Tim Krosch and their dogs Scout and Diggy.



**WARREN ST. JOHN**, a reporter for the *New York Times*, was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Author of the hugely popular *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania*, which was one of *Sports Illustrated's* best books of 2004 and was named the best book ever written about college sports by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, St. John has also written for the *New York Observer*, *Wired*, and the "Talk of the Town" section of the *New Yorker*. He covers popular culture for the *New York Times*.

**THE HON. HENRY "HANK" SANDERS**, a practicing attorney in Selma, was born on October 28, 1942, in Baldwin County. He graduated from Talladega College and Harvard Law School. Senator Sanders and his wife Rose are the parents of three children by birth – Malika, Kindaka and Ainka – and four children by fosterhood – Charles, Maurice, Rosie and Jennifer. Senator Sanders is a Baptist, a Democrat, and a member of the Campaign for a New South, C.A.R.E., Alabama New South Coalition, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Bar Association, American Bar Association and Alabama Lawyers Association, and the author of the novel *Death of a Fat Man*.

**NATASHA TRETHERWEY** is author of *Native Guard*, *Belloq's Ophelia* and *Domestic Work*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study Center, the



National Endowment for the Arts, and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. Her poems have appeared in such journals and anthologies as *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and the *Best American Poetry 2000* and *2003*. She is Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University, and, during the 2005-2006 academic year, she holds the Lehman-Brady Joint Chair Professorship of Documentary and American Studies at Duke and UNC Chapel Hill.

**JAKE ADAM YORK**, an Alabama native, is the author of *Murder Ballads*, a collection of poetry. York is a contributing editor to *Shenandoah* and the co-editor of *storySouth*. He also serves as editor of *Thicket*, an online journal focusing exclusively on Alabama writers and published by the Alabama Center for Literary Arts.



## Featured Alabama Scholars

**MARGARET HAIGLER DAVIS** is a Professor of English at Spring Hill College. She was chosen Teacher of the Year in 2001-2002. Her publications are in the fields of early American literature and pedagogy. She is trained in early American literature; her teaching interests have widened into composition, Southern literature, women writers, and Hispanic-American literature.



**ROBERT W. HALLI** is founding Dean of the Honors College at the University of Alabama and Director of the University Honors Program. He has served on the English faculty of the University of Alabama since 1972, teaching and publishing on English Renaissance literature, ballads and folksongs, the detective novel, and the macabre. His authoritative edition of this state's folksongs, *An Alabama Songbook*, was published in 2004. Among other honors, Dr. Halli received the 2000 Morris L. Mayer Award, the University's premier Award for "selfless service, integrity, leadership, and significant contributions to student life." In 2005, he received the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar.

**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 as First Vice President of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML). He is also the recipient of the 2001 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar.

**JENNIFER HORNE**, a poet and editor, 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*. She is the editor of *Working the Dirt*, an anthology of poems about farming and gardening in the South, and co-editor, with Wendy Bruce, of *All out of Faith: Southern Women on Spirituality*, a book of essays forthcoming from UA Press in 2006.

**JAY LAMAR** is Director of the Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University, Director of the Alabama Center for the Book, and co-editor (with Jeanie Thompson) of *The Remembered Gate: Memoirs by Alabama Writers*.

**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.

**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.

**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 Sciences Fine Arts Leadership Board recognized her with the Alumni Arts Award for her work as a writer and arts education advocate.

# 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.

## THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

1-6 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  
"An Evening With Rick Bass"  
introduced by Tom Franklin

## FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Literary Coffee House & Exhibit of Alabama Artists & Music  
9-9:20 a.m. Opening Convocation:  
"Action! Adventure! Alabama!" – Tom Franklin  
9:30-11:30 a.m. Morning Sessions  
9:30-9:55 a.m. Natasha Tretheway (poetry)  
with moderator Derryn Moten  
10-10:25 a.m. Sonny Brewer (fiction)  
with moderator Margaret Davis  
10:30-10:55 a.m. Suzanne Hudson (fiction)  
with moderator Jay Lamar

11-11:25 a.m. Cathy Day (fiction)  
with moderator Don Noble  
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Book Signing  
12:15-2 p.m. Luncheon with Senator Hank Sanders  
2:30-4:15 p.m. Afternoon Sessions  
2:30-2:55 p.m. William Cobb  
with moderator Bert Hitchcock  
3-3:40 p.m. Two Poets: Jake Adam York & Leah Nielsen with moderator Jennifer Horne  
3:45-4:30 p.m. Panel: Sports – Players, Coaches, Fans  
Warren St. John, Allen Barra and Joe Formichella (nonfiction) with participating moderator Warren St. John  
4:45-5:30 p.m. Book Signing  
5:30-6:45 p.m. Picnic on the Monroeville Courthouse Lawn  
7-9 p.m. Live performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
7:30-9 p.m. Reader's Theatre – *Verbatim: Alabama Stories Dramatized*, University of Alabama Theatre Department  
8:30-11 p.m. "Light Jazz and Heavy Conversation"

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.

## SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006

8-10 a.m. Refreshments on Old Courthouse Lawn  
9-10:15 a.m. Morning Sessions (writers not in sessions will be available to sign books)  
9-9:30 a.m. Joshilyn Jackson  
with moderator Bob Halli  
9:40-10:10 a.m. Homer Hickam (fiction & memoir)  
with moderator Bob Halli  
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Awards Brunch  
Presentation of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2006 and of the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2006  
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Reading by Harper Lee Award Winner; Q & A Session  
with moderator Jeanie Thompson  
12:15 p.m. Meet the Authors/ Book Signing

## 2006 Alabama Writers Symposium Registration Form

Registration Deadline Friday, April 14, 2006 • 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.**

### 2006 REGISTRATION FEES

- ☐ Comprehensive Ticket • May 4-6 .....\$150  
Includes all meals and events except  
*To Kill A Mockingbird* play on May 5
- ☐ Thursday Ticket • May 4 .....\$50  
Includes reception and "An Evening with Rick Bass"
- ☐ Friday Ticket • May 5 .....\$60  
Includes awards luncheon with Senator Henry  
"Hank" Sanders, picnic and jazz quartet
- ☐ Saturday Ticket • May 6 .....\$50  
Includes awards luncheon
- ☐ *To Kill A Mockingbird* ticket .....\$25  
Friday, May 5 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 Jim Hilgartner, (251) 575-3156, ext. 226/ email: jhilgartner@ascc.edu

**Visit our website at [www.ascc.edu](http://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.

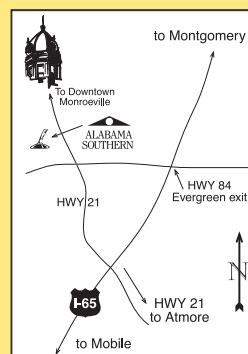
The Symposium is sponsored by

- 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
- BankTrust
- Alabama Power Foundation
- Vanity Fair, Inc.
- 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 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 21. Please call the numbers listed below for reservations.

**Best Value Inn • (251) 743-3154**

\$40 for king rooms; \$45 for double rooms; plus tax

**Best Western • (251) 575-9999**

\$55 plus tax for double, queen, and king rooms

**Days Inn • (251) 743-3297**

\$55 plus tax for single and double rooms

**Holiday Inn Express • (251) 743-3333**

\$75.95 plus tax for double or king rooms

**Monroeville Inn • (251) 575-3312**

\$35 for king rooms; \$40 for double rooms; plus tax



**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 • [www.ascc.edu](http://www.ascc.edu)