



Saltire

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FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY

FALL 2002



Al Harris photo

Assisting in cutting the ribbon at the rededication of Houston Cole Library are, from left: Julian Jenkins, architect; Pete Mathews, chairman, JSU Board of Trustees; Theron Montgomery, former JSU president; Bill Hubbard, University librarian; Bill Meehan, JSU president; and Harold McGee, former JSU president.

Cole Library rededicated

By Bill Hubbard

After extensive exterior renovations, Houston Cole Library was rededicated on October 21. The marble panels that formed the exterior facing of the library had deteriorated to the point where they were in danger of working loose from their moorings and falling. They were replaced by panels of red Texas polished granite, which better match the brickwork of most other campus buildings. A canopy and metal roof was constructed over the existing penthouse in order to address the leakage experienced with the exposed glass panels on the 12th floor. This new roof treatment and exterior panels radically change the appearance of the state's tallest academic building.

**Rededication of
Houston Cole Library**

October 21, 2002

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Mistress of Ceremony
Dr. Rebecca Turner

Pre-music
*JSU Student Woodwind
Quintet*

Welcome
Dr. William A. Meehan

Welcome
Mr. Pete Mathews

Rededication of Library
Mr. Bill Hubbard

Dedication of Fifth Floor
to Dr. Alta Millican
Dr. Theron Montgomery

Ribbon Cutting
*Mr. Bill Hubbard
Dr. William A. Meehan
Dr. Harold McGee
Dr. Theron Montgomery*

❦

The rededication ceremony also included the naming of the library's 5th floor in honor of Dr. Alta Millican, long time dean of the College of Library Science, Communications, and Instructional Media. A portrait of Dr. Millican was unveiled, to hang with a memorial bronze plaque placed on the 5th floor by the Friends of Houston Cole Library.

Inside...

Friends will host
Alabama Writer of the
Year in February 2003

Details, page 2

Davis' Alabama Memoirs focus of Nov. 12 program

Janice Milner Lasseter, Professor of English at Samford University and member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation speakers bureau, will present "Duels, Feuds, Horse-Racing, Plantation Mistresses, Slavery, Iron Mills: Alabama

Legends in a Nineteenth-Century Memoir," on November 12, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Houston Cole Library.

The folklore of Alabama looms large in the memoir of Rebecca Harding Davis,
Please see Memoirs, page 3

Sena Jeter Naslund: Alabama's Writer of the Year to read, discuss work at JSU

On Monday evening February 24, 2003, the Friends of the JSU Houston Cole Library will sponsor a reading and talk by Birmingham-native Sena Jeter Naslund.

Naslund, whose *Ahab's Wife, Or, The Star Gazer*, appeared to critical acclaim in 2000, has completed a subsequent novel, *Four Spirits*, set during the years of her own youth in Birmingham, Alabama when the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church killed four young black girls. In the Spring of 2003, she will be in residence at Montevallo University as Visiting Faculty. She is director of the short-term residence MFA program in Creative Writing at Spaulding University and is also a Distinguished Professor on the faculty of University of Louisville.

The wide success of *Ahab's Wife* was accompanied by a flurry of interviews and book signings. In an interview with New York journalist John Woodley, available on line at MostlyFiction.com, she details both the flash of inspiration that made possible her long commitment to the project and the meticulous research that

Spenser, who begins her narrative with an opening sentence that has since been called one that rivals Melville's own, "Captain Ahab was neither my first husband nor my last." The sentence, the subtitle, "Or, The Star Gazer," the image of a widowed wife searching for her whale-captain husband, and the large scope of the book came to her in an instant, doubtless prompted, she has explained elsewhere, by her daughter asking

why there were no women in the *Moby Dick* they were listening to on tape. The novel is rich with details that tie it to Melville's *Moby Dick*, yet it creates a world for her Una that intersects with famous historical people, especially Margaret Fuller and Frederick Douglass. (Even Nathaniel Hawthorne and the young, precocious Henry James make appearances.)

She explained to Julia Oliver, who interviewed her for *First Draft, The Journal of the Alabama Writers' Forum*, "I loved both the original writing and the revision process—every minute of it. I fell strangely in love with this book and wanted to be with it, or in it, as much as possible." Indeed, many readers feel the

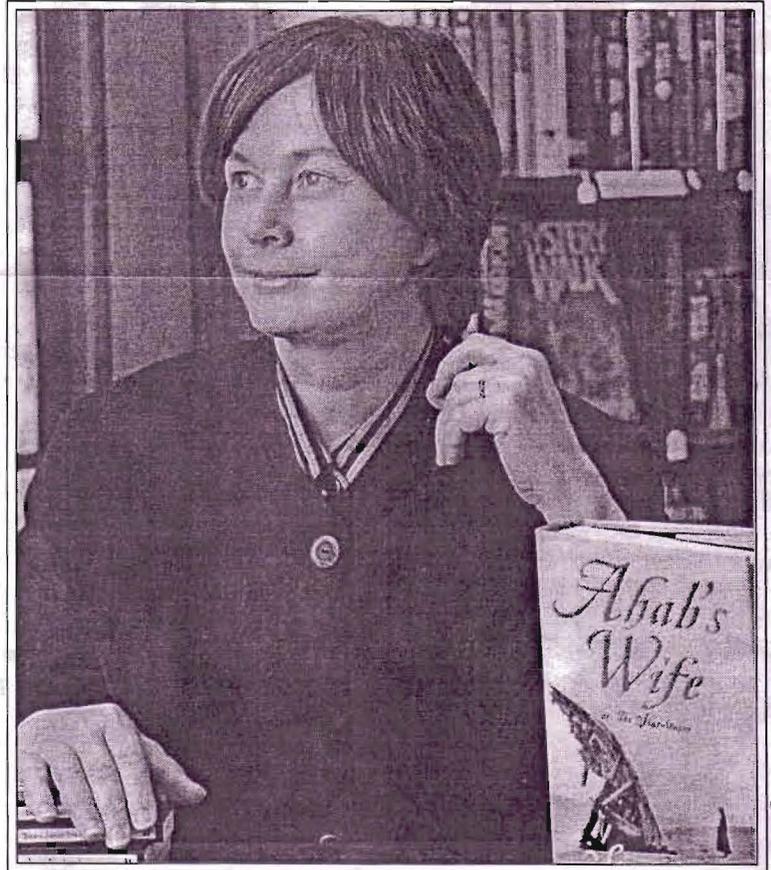


photo courtesy of Beau Gustafson 2001

Sena Jeter Naslund, Alabama's Writer of the Year

same, as if they want Una's experiences not to end, so vivid and variable are her life's journeys. For the well-read reader, Naslund has special rewards in store. In the opening chapters, *Ahab's Wife* indirectly invokes both the surprises Ishmael encounters when he's obliged to share a bed with Qeequeg and the classic scene in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in which Eliza escapes to her freedom across the ice flows. (Naslund admits her anti-slavery scenes were trimmed in her final draft but that aspects of her black characters fighting for their freedoms found their way into her next book.) Moreover, Una directly calls up lines from John Keats and Shakespeare

Please see Naslund, page 3

The
Writings
of Sena
Jeter Naslund

Four Spirits

Ahab's Wife

Sherlock in Love

*The Disobedience
of Water*

details the
rich life
behind her
heroine, Una

Charnigo, Griffin join University Library staff

Laurie Charnigo and Luke Griffin joined the staff at Houston Cole Library June 17, 2002.

Charnigo, a graduate of the Library & Information Studies program at the University of Alabama, will provide research assistance for the 5th floor, as well as general reference and library instruction sessions. Ms. Charnigo is an avid reader and usually has several books going at a time. From childhood she has wanted to be a librarian and is enjoying her job very much at Houston Cole. Aside from reading, she likes to run and has joined the Anniston Runners Club. Ms. Charnigo is about to embark on a new

phase in her life with her upcoming wedding in November.

Griffin, a graduate of the Library Science program at the University of North Texas, will manage the Government Documents collection and assist with the management of the Library's electronic resources. His previous position at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago was as the Government Documents and Digital Services Librarian since June 1999. Mr. Griffin is devoted to his children (Iris age 8 and Faith age 1). He enjoys chess, collecting Roman coins, and of course, reading.

Memoirs From page 2

a popular nineteenth century fiction writer whose early life was spent in Florence, Alabama. Her life story includes quirky anecdotes about family feuds, chivalric duels, encounters with Indians, slave uprisings, and plantation mistresses. She shows how and why the lives of plantation mistresses were quite different from the picturesque, idle lives their northern sisters imagined and envied. Her portrayal of the Civil War is a personal, un-romanticized vision of past national glories where heroes did arise but so did brutes, or a "class of soldiery who raged like wild beasts through the mountains of the border States." In addition to the Alabama legends in her autobiography, Davis also wrote stories about iron mills and slavery. Davis focuses her life story and her fiction around the momentous cultural changes through which she lived from the 1830s to the early twentieth century, and her characters reveal the importance of individual endeavors in the shaping of any nation's history.

Janice Milner Lasseter is Professor of English at Samford University, where she was the Chair of the English Department from 1991-1999. She has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Alabama, with a specialization in nineteenth-century American Literature. Lasseter co-founded the Nathaniel Hawthorne Discussion Circle for the South-Atlantic Modern Language Association, and has published numerous essays on Hawthorne, Rebecca Harding Davis, and Hawthorne's legacy to

Davis. She is the editor of the Rebecca Harding Davis: page of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers website (www.unl.edu/legacy/legacy). Her book *Rebecca Harding Davis: Writing Cultural Autobiography*, was published by Vanderbilt University Press in 2001.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is a nonprofit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (of which the AHF is the state affiliate), as well as by corporate and individual

donors. The foundation is dedicated to the promotion and celebration of the humanities throughout the state of Alabama and, to that end, conducts its own statewide programs and awards grants, on a competitive basis, to nonprofit organizations for humanities projects. For more information on Speaker in the House or other AJH programs, please call 205-558-3980.

This program is open to the public.

Naslund From page 2

and consciously compares herself not only to her namesake in Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, but also to Shakespeare's romance heroines, longing for an alternative to tragic outcome in a world where all seems bleak around them. Ahab's love letters to Una are also sprinkled with Shakespearean allusions.

Naslund's earlier novel, *Sherlock in Love* (1993), makes a clever twist on Watson's tales of the famous detective. Her collection of stories, *The Disobedience of Water*, creates a mix of characters and voices, some indebted to her background in music and art. The title piece, she explains to Oliver, turned out to be a "preliminary sketch" for Una, a "contemporary woman" that experiences a version of Una's 19th century story.

Ahab's Wife, Or the Star Gazer has reached at least its 20th printing in

paperback. It was selected for Yale's Freshman reading list. Sena Jeter Naslund has previously given talks at Pell City, Sylacauga, and Calhoun County Libraries (sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book), as well as points around her native Birmingham. She was a recipient in 2001 of the Harper Lee Award, presented at the Monroeville Alabama Writers Symposium, where she spoke of her girlhood memories of frequenting the Birmingham Public Library. The Alabama Library Association voted her Fiction Writer of the Year in 2001. Copies of Naslund's books will be available for signing.

The event is part of JSU's "Kaleidoscope" Festival of the Arts. Please join us February 24 for a special evening.

LIBRY

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on the future of American democracy.

Dr. Mike Clayton, Psychology
Organizational Change

An overview of contemporary organizational change gleaned from studies done
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Organizational Psychology, Performance Improvement,
and Behavioral Safety.

Dr. Mark Fagan, Department Head, Sociology and Social Work
Retirement Development: A How-to Guidebook

A guidebook designed to assist any community or state that wants to attract
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Dr. Martha Merrill, Department of Educational Resources
(co-author Mary Maude McCain)

*Dictionary for School Library Media Specialists:
A Practical and Comprehensive Guide*

The dictionary is a practical, up-to-date, and comprehensive guide to the basic
terminology use in the daily operation of a K-12 school library media center.

Dr. Christopher Westly, Department of Economics
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and Gloria L. Zuniga)

*Human Nature and the Discipline of Economics: Personalist
Anthropology and Economic Methodology*

A survey and presentation of the anthropological foundations to the disciplines
of economics and moral theology concluding with the demonstration that an
expanded understanding of human nature can augment the ability of economic
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Dr. Nouredine Zettili, Department of Physical and Earth Sciences
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A textbook providing a comprehensive introduction to quantum mechanics.

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