Friends will Host Kathryn Tucker Windham

Mark your calendar for October 27th. Friends of Houston Cole Library is hosting Kathryn Tucker Windham, a nationally and internationally recognized storyteller. Though currently known primarily for her storytelling, Mrs. Windham was first a newspaper reporter, her journalistic career spanning more than 40 years, from the Great Depression through the Civil Rights movement. After graduating from Huntingdon College with a degree in English and a minor in history, she became one of the pioneer female journalists in the South, during which time she was the recipient of Associated Press awards for her news stories and photography.

It was after her first ghost storybooks were published in the 1960's that she immediately became a significant part of it. Growing up with a father who collected stories, then retold them to his family on the front porch during late summer afternoons and before the fireplace when the cool temperature prompted them to go inside, must surely have contributed to her ability to tell a good tale.

As she honed her skill, she rapidly became a sought after storyteller for audiences far beyond her hometown of Selma: participating in storytelling festivals around the country and entertaining audiences here and abroad. She has also served as an essayist on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and as a consultant to several public broadcasting documentaries.

Among her honors are honorary degrees from Huntingdon College and The University of Montevallo, an award for non-fiction from the Alabama Library Association, and the 1985 "Living for America" award. She was a charter member of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling and served on the board of directors for eight years.

While she is known on lecture tours for her warmth and humor, she calls herself a plain and simple teller of tales, who views storytelling as an essential element of life and the most personal of arts. "I like storytelling for pleasure, to transport my listeners for a little while from whatever is gnawing them," she says.

Mrs. Windham is one of Alabama's best-known citizens and has been honored for her contributions to preserving the state's and region's culture and heritage. Children of the last three decades, however, remember her for Jeffrey, her ghost story character.

She again spins her yarns for our area on October 27th, on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library at 7:30 P.M. Her books will be available for sale and autographing.

Dr. Robert Felgar to Read From His Book

When Dr. Robert Felgar speaks on his recently-published book as a lecturer for the Friends on November 9th, it will be another phase in an academic calling which includes a twenty-seven year career as Professor of English at Jacksonville State University, most recently as Chairperson of the Department of English.

Felgar is a nationally recognized scholar, especially in African-American Literature. This year alone saw the publication of Understanding Richard Wright's Black Boy, part of Greenwood Press's Literature in Context series, and "Native Son and Its Readers," in the MLA volume Approaches to Teaching Wright's Native Son. He has also recently agreed to write a book on Wright's major fiction, to be published by Greenwood Press. Yet Felgar isn't just a scholar. His devotion to teaching is of equal importance. During his tenure at JSU he has been the recipient of the JSU Outstanding Teacher Award and a number of national grants geared to teaching teachers, including the JSU Writing Project. He has been a teacher of the first Writing Instruction Technology conference, an annual state-wide teacher-education program presently in its second decade.
Proposed Amendment to By-Laws

In an effort to give more flexibility in scheduling writers when they are available, the board proposes that Article III, Meetings, Section 1, be amended to read as follows (words to be deleted are enclosed in parentheses; words to replace them are printed in bold face):

“Section 1: The Friends of Houston Cole Library will meet semiannually in the fall and spring. The (fall) spring meeting will be the annual business meeting for election of officers, committee reports, and other business that may come before the membership. (The spring) Either meeting (will) may include a program, which may be co-sponsored by other organizations with similar interests.”

The membership will vote on the proposed change in a brief business session preceding the program on October 27th.

Elizabeth Reid Named to Friends Board

Ms. Elizabeth Reid has been named to Friends of Houston Cole Library Board to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Robert Lokey who asked to step down after eight years’ service to the board. Ms. Reid is a JSU alumna, having received a B.S. degree in psychology and a masters in education with a concentration in social sciences. Currently a teacher at Jacksonville High School, she worked for eleven years as a circulation assistant at the Houston Cole Library. The Friends board looks forward to Ms. Reid’s contribution to the organization.

Meetings of the Board

JULY 9 - Dr. Mary Williams was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board. An amendment to the By-Laws was submitted to and approved by the Board. It will be voted on by the general membership of the Friends at the next business meeting. (See “Proposed Amendment to By-Laws” elsewhere in this newsletter.)

AUGUST 26 - The Board discussed plans for obtaining and funding a “big-name” writer as a guest speaker at the Friends’ annual program meeting. Nancy Anderson from Auburn University at Montgomery addressed the Board on this topic and explained how this had recently been achieved at AUM. Possible speakers were considered.

SEPTEMBER 14 - The resignation of Dr. Robert Lokey from the Board was accepted with regret and thanks for his services. The Board discussed further the matter of a guest speaker for the annual program, in pursuit of the subject raised at the preceding meeting.
Friends Board Member is an Eminent Emerson Scholar

Col. (Ret.) Douglas E. Wilson, noted Emerson scholar, is a charter member of the Friends of Houston Cole Library and has served on the board since its inception.

Before serving as an Army officer and an administrative officer in Civil Service at Fort McClellan, he taught English for ten years at several universities. Following his years of teaching, he continued his interest in literature, and studied related scholarship and criticism. He became particularly fascinated by the problems of textual editing, notably in connection with the texts of Shakespeare's plays.

After retirement in 1974, Professor Joseph Slater of Colgate University, and former colleague at Rutgers University, asked Wilson to edit the texts of a volume of new editions of The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson being published by Harvard University Press. The General and Textual Editor of the edition, Professor Alfred Ferguson of the University of Massachusetts, had recently died after publishing one volume, Nature, Addresses and Lectures, and starting work on Essays, First and Second Series, being finished by Jean Ferguson Carr and Professor Slater. Wilson became the textual editor for the fourth volume, Representative Men, published originally in 1850. The late Professor Wallace Williams of Indiana University published this volume in 1987, with Historical Introduction and notes.

Professor Phillip Nicoloff of the University of New Hampshire published the next work, English Traits (1856), in 1994, with Historical Introduction and notes by Professor Robert Burkholder of Pennsylvania State University. The five subsequent volumes are still in progress. Wilson has finished the textual editing of three volumes. The Conduct of Life (1860) should be published fairly soon with Historical Introduction by Professor Barbara Parker of UCLA and notes by Professor Slater.

In 1997, Wilson received the distinguished Achievement Award from the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society in recognition for his work on that organization.

Col. (Ret.) Douglas E. Wilson was elected to the Editorial Board and appointed Textual Editor in addition to General Editor in 1995, the Editorial Board appointed Wilson General Editor in addition to Textual Editor.

In 1997, Wilson received the distinguished Achievement Award from the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society in recognition for his work on this addition, contributions to The Complete Sermons and The Topical Notebooks, to which he was Contributing Editor and Consulting Editor, respectfully and his editorship of The Emerson Society Papers, the Emerson Society semiannual newsletter, since its founding in 1990.

Locally, Wilson has been a member of Friends of the Anniston/Calhoun County Public Library and served as its president for 16 years. He is currently serving as treasurer. He has been actively involved in programs sponsored by the library for years, including Read Alabama, Reading Our Lives and Writing Our Lives. He is a committee member of the discussion group, "Reading, Thinking, Sharing" and has led several discussions over the years.

NEEDED! New Members

New members are needed in an important organization that promotes the JSU's Houston Cole Library!

For more information see the membership form in this issue!
Friends of Houston Cole Library

Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265-1602

YES! I wish to join the Friends of Houston Cole Library as indicated below:

Individual

$10 Annually

$25 Annually

$100 Annually

Patron

Benefactor

$500 Annually

Please make your check payable to Friends of Houston Cole Library.

Your contribution is tax deductible and may be eligible for matching by your employer.

You are cordially invited to become a Friend of Houston Cole Library. The purpose of the organization is to promote an appreciation of the Library as the center of academic life at Jacksonville State University and to provide enrichment for its resources.

Annually

You may participate in the enhancement of the Library by:

1. An opportunity to check out books,
2. An opportunity to enjoy the programs and activities of the Library, and
3. An opportunity to participate in the enhancement of the Library as the center of academic life at Jacksonville State University.

The privileges of membership include:

Patron

Benefactor

$500 Annually

You are invited to become a Friend of Houston Cole Library.

November 9

Houston Cole Library
Eleventh Floor, 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Robert Felgar

October 27

Kathryn Tucker Winnfield

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
JSU

Ms. Mary Bevis
Houston Cole Library