



# Saltire

Friends of Houston Cole Library ♦ Volume 1, Issue 2 ♦ Fall, 1998

## Friends will Host Kathryn Tucker Windham



mid-1970's, 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.

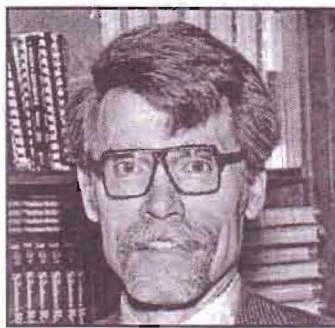


She again spins her yarns for our area on **October 27th, on the eleventh floor of the Houston Cole Library at 7:30 P.M.** Her books will be available for sale and autographing.

**M**ark 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 launched her storytelling career. Then when the national storytelling phenomenon took hold in the

## Dr. Robert Felgar to Read From His Book



**W**hen 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.

# Board of Directors 1998-99

Kenneith Calvert  
*Chairperson*

William J. Hubbard  
*Secretary and  
Treasurer*

Elizabeth Reid

Betty Rowe

Steven Whitton

Mary Williams

Douglas Wilson

## CONTRIBUTORS *to this issue!*

Kenneith Calvert  
*Chair, Friends Board*

Opal A. Lovett,  
*Retired English Professor*

Steven Whitton  
*JSU Professor of English*

William J. Hubbard  
*JSU Librarian*

Douglas Wilson  
*Board Member*

*Designed by Mary Smith,  
Coordinator  
of Publications, Office of  
Information Services*

## Proposed Amendment to By-Laws

**I**n 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



**M**s. 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.)

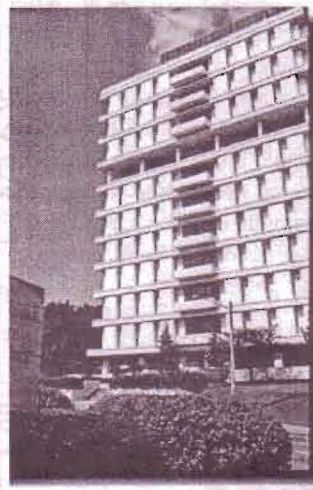
**AUGUST 26** - The Board discussed plans for obtaining and funding a “big-name” writer as a guest speaker at the Friends' annual program meeting. Nancy Anderson from Auburn University at Montgomery addressed the Board on this topic and explained how this had recently been achieved at AUM. Possible speakers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

## Did You Know?

**A**t 151,268 square feet, Houston Cole Library is the third largest academic library building in Alabama. Only Auburn's main library, at 294,000 square feet, and UAB's main library, at 167,000 square feet, have more usable space.

The last of the books cataloged under the Dewey Decimal System were reclassified to the Library of Congress System in August of this year. Completion of that long-term project leaves only a few musical scores remaining in the Dewey classification scheme.



# 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.

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

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The plan of this edition throughout has been to assign

two or three editors to each volume: one (or two) to write the Historical Introduction and the explanatory notes, which are detailed and sometimes quite long; and one, the Textual Editor, to establish the text and prepare the Textual Introduction and the Textual Apparatus. The most essential part of this editor's job is establishing the text--that is, determining what the author actually wrote, or intended to write, and what he wished the printers to print. To do that, the editor must compare all the know versions of the text--compare them as to every word and every punctuation mark--and find which version is closest to the author's final draft as submitted to the original publishers; this will be the editor's "copy text," the basis for his new edition. It will normally be the earliest available version: the first edition or set of proofs corrected by the author, or (if the editor is lucky) the actual manuscript used as printer's copy of the first edition. Then the editor must decide, about every point where a later version is different from the copy-text, whether the change was made by the point where a later version is different from the copy-text, whether the change was made by the author himself, by the interference of a publisher's editor, or by the carelessness or ignorance of a typesetter. Often the answer is obvious and easy, but often it is not; and here the editor must exercise taste and judgment, for there is no simple rule of thumb to guide him.

After working on *Representative Men* for a year, Wilson was elected to the Editorial Board and appointed Textual Editor of *The Collected Works*. When Professor

Slater resigned for health reasons 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!

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

# COMING

**October 27**

**Kathryn Tucker Windham,**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Eleventh Floor,**

**Houston Cole Library**

**November 9**

**Dr. Robert Felgar**

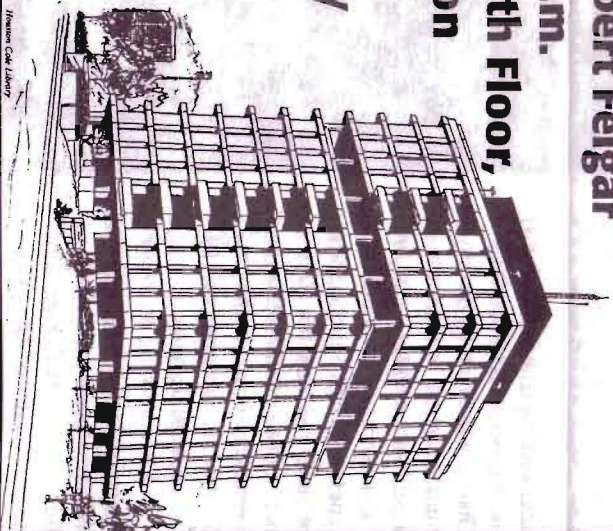
**7:30 p.m.**

**Eleventh Floor,**

**Houston**

**Cole**

**Library**



## 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   | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$10 Annually  |
| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$25 Annually  |
| Benefactor   | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 Annually |
| Patron       | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Y**ou 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.

The privileges of membership  
are: 1) An opportunity to  
participate in the enhancement  
of the library, 2) A card entitling  
you to check out books, and 3)  
An opportunity to enjoy the  
programs and activities of the  
Friends.



**JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Ms. Mary Bevis  
Houston Cole Library