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FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY

Serials Department  
FEB 15 2005  
HOUSTON COLE LIBRARY  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2005

## Hank Williams, Sr.

*Friends Kaleidoscope program will highlight Alabama sensation*

As part of Kaleidoscope, JSU's Festival of the Arts, Alan Brown, English Instructor and Writing Center Director at the University of West Alabama and member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation speakers bureau, will present "Hank Williams, Sr.—An Alabama Sensation," on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 2:30 PM at the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University.

Hank Williams, Sr. is generally considered one of the greatest country western singers who ever lived. In "Hank Williams, Sr.—An Alabama Sensation," Brown will demonstrate how the singer's

boyhood years in Chapman, Alabama had an indelible impact on his music. Through the use of video, slides, and recordings of Williams' songs, Brown will not only trace the course of Williams' tragic life, but he will also explain why the singer returned to Montgomery shortly before he died and penned two of his greatest songs, "Your Cheatin' Heart" and "Kaw-liga." Brown will also point out the biographical references in a demo recording titled "Log Train." By the end of the lecture, audiences should understand why Hank Williams, Sr.'s appeal has extended far beyond



Brown



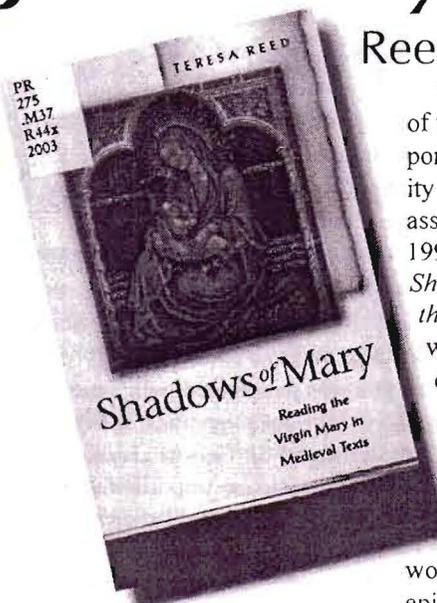
Hank Williams, Sr.

country western music. This presentation is part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) 2005-2006 Speaker in the House program.

**Tuesday,  
February 22  
2:30 p.m.  
11th Floor,  
Houston Cole  
Library**

## JSU faculty member authors book

Reed to discuss *Shadows of Mary* at Friends event



Who, really, was the Virgin Mary? Friends of the Houston Cole Library will have the opportunity to get to know this icon of Christianity a little better in March as Dr. Teresa Reed, associate professor of English at JSU since 1996, discusses her recently-published title *Shadows of Mary: Understanding Images of the Virgin Mary in Medieval Texts*. The event will be March 15 at 7 p.m., on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Reed's presentation will be taken from her book and will focus on descriptions, discussions, and disputes that arose over Mary's physical existence. In the European Middle Ages, the meanings of womanhood were filtered through that culture's epitome of womanhood, the Holy Virgin Mary.

Yet her story is filled with contradictions that might confound the modern reader. Reed will be discussing some of the issues that helped to create stories about Mary and her body, including her own conception and birth, her virginity, her motherhood, her role as wife, and her death. For all of these areas of life, which are typical aspects of many women's lives, reveal the necessity of female flesh to the foundational beliefs of medieval Christianity.

Reed received her B.A. from Birmingham-Southern College, her M.A. from the University of Virginia, and her Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Her specialty is Middle English literature, with a particular interest in reading

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## Reed

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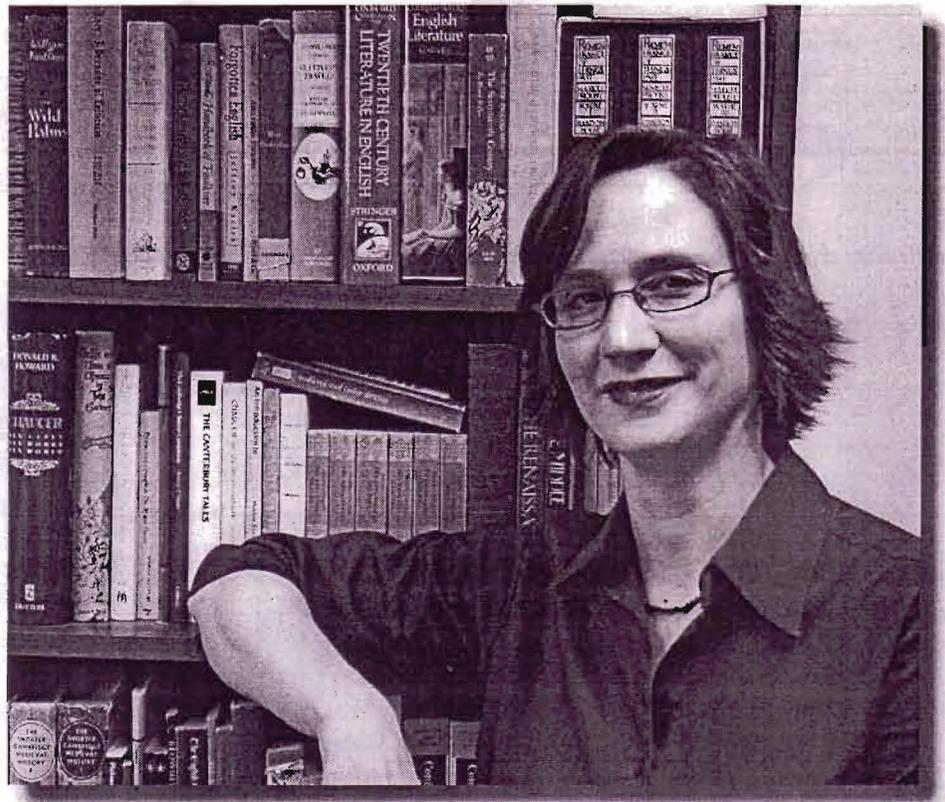
from a feminist point of view. *Shadows of Mary: Understanding Images of the Virgin Mary in Medieval Texts* was published by the University of Wales Press in the summer of 2003 and analyzes the place of Mary's body in medieval Christian theology. Dr. Reed has also published articles on Chaucer's *Man of Law's Tale*, recordings of medieval texts done by the Chaucer Studio, and on the Middle English poem *Pearl*.

**Mark your calendar...**

## Shadows of Mary presented by Dr. Teresa Reed

March 15, 2005 - 7 p.m.  
11th Floor, Cole Library

(Copies will be available for  
purchase and signing)



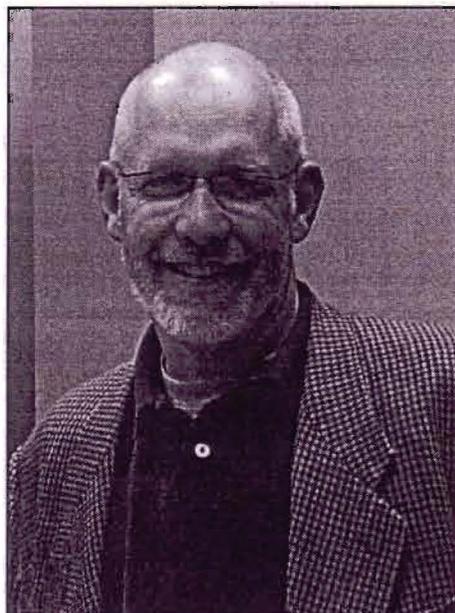
Dr. Teresa Reed, author of *Shadows of Mary: Understanding Images of the Virgin Mary in Medieval Texts*.

## Fiction fueled by childhood experiences

Noted Southern novelist and humorist T. R. Pearson visited JSU on September 23, 2004 as the fall program for the Friends of Houston Cole Library. His presentation was in two distinct parts. First, he gave what appeared to be an impromptu saga of the origins of his first trilogy of novels, *A Short History of a Small Place*, *Off for the Sweet Hereafter*, and *The Last of How It Was*. The fictional town of Neely, North Carolina, he explained, emerged from his weekend visits to his grandparents' home.

Louis Benfield, young narrator of the fictional trilogy, had nothing on Pearson's own, "true" version of what life was like in his growing-up years. With wry and over-honest understatement, Pearson wove together those remembered life experiences that served as the original for the monkey that became "Mr. Britches" in his first novel (known for his dirty diaper and for chattering from the top of a flagpole). There was the town eccentric, secluded in her grand house behind wrought-iron fencing, and events that readers recognized

when they concerned a local woman's body that was shipped back to the town packed in ice after she had expired while on a world cruise. No one who was present was left dry-eyed or unexhausted



T.R. Pearson

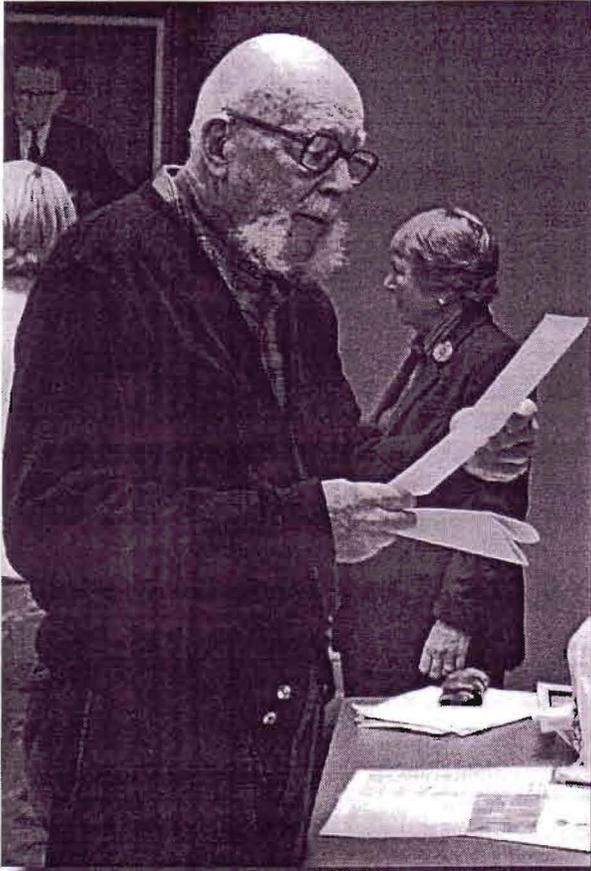
from laughter at the remarkably remembered details, spun out in paragraph-long sentences that are common in Pearson's novels.

Following that, Pearson read from an unpublished draft of his forthcoming novel, one that returns to Louis as narrator, now grown up and working in New York City, the victim of aggressive attention by a very small dog. Pearson answered questions from faculty and aspiring creative writing students, and from readers intrigued by his style in his recent novels that feature the Tatum cousins in detective plots that are rich with careful withholdings of narrator's names and significant clues.

The library staff promoted the program with a clever and eye-catching lobby display that was punctuated with icons from his recent books--gnomes, monkeys, and the painting of St. George slaying the dragon by Carpaccio, so important to the plot of his most recently published novel, *True Cross*.

Remembering  
**Doug Wilson**  
 (1911-2005)

Friends of Houston Cole Library Board Member, 1996-2005



Douglas Wilson, looking over materials that were part of Friends of Houston Cole Library's program on Jane Austen presented by Alabama Humanities Foundation speaker Patricia Neal (right rear), February, 2004.

**The life** of Douglas Emory Wilson,

editor of the collected essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson for Harvard's Belknap Press and board member of both the Friends of Houston Cole Library and the Friends of Anniston/Calhoun County Libraries, was remembered with warm appreciation January 23, 2005 in the Ayers Auditorium where, as treasurer of the Friends of Anniston/Calhoun County Library, he fondly supervised the book sales, as well as pre-sale sorting and pricing. He was also past director of the newsletter for the Northeast Alabama Retired Officers Association.

Photos of Doug, copies of his edited volumes of Emerson, and inspiring quotations from Emerson were on display. Jacksonville resident and Anniston Library director Bonnie Seymour called the event "not a memorial service," in tribute to Doug's tendency to publish criticism that was entitled "This is not a book review." She and Friends of Houston Cole Library Board Chair Joanne Gates read excerpts from Emerson.

Every August through his ninety-fourth year, Doug drove to Concord to participate in meetings with co-editors for the Harvard University Press' series of Emerson's works. Until an accident in his yard in November, he worked every day in his office at the 10th Street library. At the event to honor his memory, neighbors, fellow retired servicemen, and official and unofficial friends of Doug and the libraries he supported recalled his book-loving, cat loving, humanist habits, and his dedication to the libraries. Retired and current JSU faculty including Bill Hubbard, university librarian, and library staff, and past board members of the Friends, including Robert Lokey, attended.

**Good-Bye**

(by Ralph Waldo Emerson)

*Good-Bye, proud world! I'm going home:  
 Thou art not my friend, and I'm not thine.  
 Long through thy weary crowds I roam;  
 A river-ark on the ocean brine,  
 Long I've been tossed like the driven foam;  
 But now, proud world! I'm going home.*

Noah Cleveland  
Houston Cole Library  
JSU

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY  
Friends of the Houston Cole Library  
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Jacksonville, AL 36265-1602



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## Jackson: The Personal Side of Alabama History

On March 9, 2004, Friends of Houston Cole Library sponsored a book signing by history professor Hardy Jackson, author of



Dr. Hardy Jackson

*Inside Alabama: A Personal History of My State.*

Harvey H. Jackson III, or Hardy to most of the lively audience, offered remarks to accompany the occasion of the publication of his book by the University of Alabama Press. Most in the audience did not need to be reminded of Hardy's journey towards the personalization of the history of the state that he explains in his preface.

As a moving extra-personalization of how he came to History as a profession and discovered, at a young age, the uniqueness of his Alabama heritage, he told of two

formative events demonstrating his good fortune and suddenly enlightened consciousness. One was an elderly town lady telling him "something about history" by bringing out of storage a unique battle regiment flag, one that but for her ancestor's recovery, might have been abandoned. Another passionate remembrance came from when his father put a damper on the childhood game of re-enacting scenes from the Classics Illustrated comic edition of *The Red Badge of Courage*. His father informed him that Stephen Crane's battle edgy heroes were the "ones that beat us."

Dr. Jackson also moved the audience when he explained the difficult challenge of getting right the history of race relations in the state. The audience for the event, publicized with the assistance of Anniston Star cartoonist Leilah Rampa's headshot of Hardy Jackson rising out of a southern structure, filled the 11th floor meeting room. By the end of the evening, Professor Jackson had sold and signed all copies on hand and promised staff of the library more signatures on copies purchased after they re-ordered.

*Inside Alabama* continues to be available from University

## Jane Austen scholar speaks



Dr. Patricia Neal

Dr. Patricia Neal, a professor at Spring Hill College in Mobile, presented the Spring Program of the Friends of Houston Cole Library on February 24, 2004.

Her presentation, "Jane Austen: From Parlor to Trenches to Silver Screen," had for its theme the long and varied attention the public has paid to the works of Jane Austen. Neal, an Alabama Humanities Foundation-sponsored "Speaker in the House," reminded her audience that a great influence on a culture was made by a woman who sat in the public parlor and produced a handful of novels, not all of which were published in her lifetime. Neal held the complete works up in one hand for emphasis. Film clips highlighted the presentation.

### Board of Directors, Friends of the Houston Cole Library

William Hubbard, secretary/treasurer

Karen Gregg- January 2008

Jeanette Remer- January 2007

Joanne Gates, chair- January 2006

Shirley Kirkland- January 2007

Sandra Walker- January 2008

Elizabeth Reid - January 2006

Congratulations to

Sandra Walker (newly elected)

and Karen Gregg (re-elected) to the board