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PART IV

LEE SMITH: A DIAMOND FROM
COAL COUNTRY

FALL LUNCHEON

UNIVERSITY AUTHORS DAYS

IN MEMORIAM:
MICHAEL S. REYNOLDS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2001 NORTH CAROLINA
WRITERS SERIES

VOLUME 21:2, PART I
LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 2:2, PART II
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME 2:2, PART III
NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL
JULY-DECEMBER 2000



OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

[FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY](#)

[LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT](#)

[SCHOLARLY
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Friends of the Library News

By *Mary Kate Keith*

LEE SMITH:



ROGER WINSTEAD, NCSU.

A DIAMOND FROM COAL COUNTRY

On October 19, 2000, the NCSU Libraries celebrated the career and writings of Lee Smith, award-winning North Carolina author and retired NC State professor, at a special reception and exhibit opening held in her honor. The exhibit, mounted by the library's Special Collections Department and entitled "A Diamond from Coal Country: The Career of Lee Smith," features many items from Lee's personal and professional papers, including unpublished short stories. Items on display include the yellow, legal-sized sheets of Lee's first story, handwritten as a young girl in 1956. The story, featuring Adlai Stevenson and Jane Russell, has the main characters heading west in a covered wagon to become Mormons. The exhibit is open to the public until January 31, 2001. An online version featuring selected highlights from the exhibit can be found at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/archives/exhibits/leesmith/>.



Part of the Lee Smith exhibit at the D. H. Hill Library.



ROGER WINSTEAD, NCSU.

[Left to right] Lee Smith enjoys a conversation with Emily and Assad Meymandi.



Among those at the reception honoring Lee were fellow Hollins graduates Wyndham Robertson, vice president of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, and Lucinda MacKethan, professor of English at NC State. In addition, Caroline Weaver (Special Collections) gave an overview of the exhibit and insights into Lee's career. She explained, "Lee Smith's papers encompass all stages of her writing career and illustrate the process involved in the creation of a book, beginning with Smith's handwritten notes and continuing through computer-generated manuscripts to typeset proofs and suggested artwork for her novels. This process is well documented for her popular and acclaimed novel *Fair and Tender Ladies*. Materials in the collection related to *Fair and Tender Ladies* range from notes on the novel, to maps of the region where Ivy Rowe lived, to handwritten manuscripts and even adaptations of the novel as a play."

Following the reception at the D. H. Hill Library, guests were treated to a wonderful production of Lee's novel, *Fair and Tender Ladies*, in the university's Stewart Theatre. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival performed a musical version of the novel, which tells the life story of Ivy Rowe, a woman from the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia in the early 1900s. ❖



ROGER WINSTEAD, NCSU.

[Left to right] UNC-Chapel Hill Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Shelton Reed and his wife Dale talk with Lee Smith at the library reception held in her honor.

Fall Luncheon

On November 8, 2000, an audience of more than 170 guests came to hear NC State Provost Kermit L. Hall's presentation "The Virulence of the National Appetite for Bogus Revelation: Opening the Secret Documents of the Kennedy Assassination" at the Friends of the Library's annual Fall Luncheon. Because of unexpected circumstances, Hall was unable to attend the luncheon. He did make his presentation through a prerecorded videotape, in which he revealed information about the circumstances surrounding Kennedy's death and the U.S. government's efforts to open the assassination records to the public. Hall serves on the John F. Kennedy Presidential Assassination Records Review Board, which was established by Congress in 1992.

During the luncheon, the twelfth annual NCSU Libraries Faculty Award was presented to Hugh Devine, a professor with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management (see "Hugh Devine Receives NCSU Libraries Faculty Award," in the "Library News" section). ❖



Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter watches as Professor Hugh Devine accepts the library's Faculty Award via an Internet meeting held while Devine attended a conference in Hawaii.



NC State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and former president of the Friends of the Library Linda Murphy attended the Fall Luncheon.

University Authors Days

Twelve NC State authors will be featured in a two-day celebration of the university's talented writers. The event will be held in the D. H. Hill Library's Assembly Room between 2:00 and 7:00 P.M. on each day. For more information on this wonderful opportunity to meet twelve of NC State's faculty writers, visit the Friends Web page at: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/administration/fol/authordays.html>. ❖

In Memoriam Michael S. Reynolds

Michael S. Reynolds, life member of the Friends of the Library, died on August 12, 2000. Reynolds retired from NC State in 1997 after a thirty-two-year career. He was an English professor, director of graduate studies for the Department of English, and associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Reynolds, a preeminent scholar, devoted twenty-five years of his research and writings to Ernest Hemingway and was considered one of the most knowledgeable and thorough Hemingway biographers.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ✓ *University Author Days* January 30 and 31, 2001
Assembly Room, D. H. Hill Library
- ✓ *2001 North Carolina Writers Series*
 - Kaye Gibbons February 20, 2001
 - Jim Dean March 6, 2001
 - Daniel Wallace April 10, 2001
 - Marcia Douglas May 1, 2001
- ✓ *Special Lecture* April 6, 2001
Lecture and exhibit celebrating
NC State members of
the National Academies
D. H. Hill Library
- ✓ *Spring Dinner* April 27, 2001
Tony Earley, author of *Jim the Boy*

2001 North Carolina Writers Series

Featured speakers at this year's North Carolina Writers Series are
Friends' Author-in-Residence Kaye Gibbons,
Jim Dean, Daniel Wallace, and Marcia Douglas.

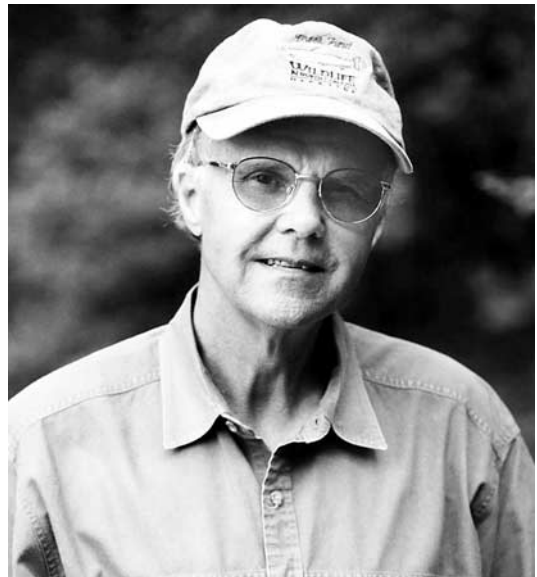
Make plans now to attend each reading and reception.

For ticket and general information about the event, call the Friends office at (919) 515-2841.

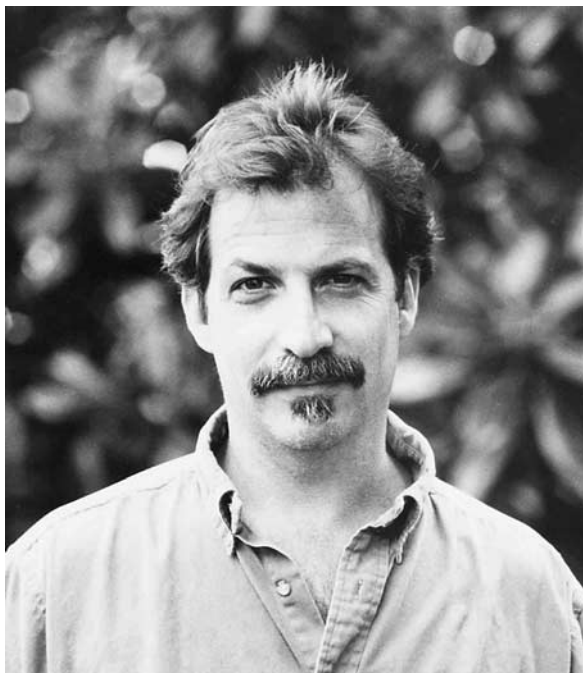
February 20: Kaye Gibbons, award-winning author of Ellen Foster.



March 6: Jim Dean, author of The Secret Lives of Fishermen.



April 10: Daniel Wallace, author of Ray in Reverse.



May 1: Marcia Douglas, author of Madam Fate.





Focus, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>