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Mark Wilson, 334/844-4948 (wilsom3@auburn.edu)

WRITERS COME ALIVE WITH LAUNCH OF ONLINE LITERARY GUIDE TO ALABAMA

AUBURN, Ala. -- Readers young and adult now have easy access to literary information about native writers with the launch of *This Goodly Land: Alabama's Literary Landscape*, an online literary map.

A resource for information on Alabama writers past and present, the site will highlight the scope of Alabama literary culture as well as the abundance of nationally and internationally significant work by the state's writers. To date, more than 200 writers have been identified for inclusion: poets and playwrights, novelists and essayists, memoirists and journalists, short story writers and children's authors. In addition to the interactive map of the state, the site can be searched by author name or book title. The new site can be found at www.alabamaliterarymap.org.

"*This Goodly Land* will be a guide for students as well as adult readers and scholars who want to know more about our rich literary culture and heritage," says Alabama Center for the Book Director Jay Lamar. "Readers will experience a virtual connection to the culture of Alabama and the writers who lived, created and are buried there."

At launch time, *This Goodly Land* entries range from well-known contemporary writers Fannie Flagg and Rick Bragg to such American literary lions as Zora Neale Hurston, Truman Capote and Harper Lee. Alabama's literary heritage is represented by such writers as Alabama's first Poet Laureate, Samuel Mintern Peck, and Mary McNeil Fenollosa, who published many works as Sidney McCall. Each author's entry includes biographical information, a photo or image of the author, a list of selected works, awards and honors, a description of the author's work, suggestions for further reference and location of the author's papers.

A project of the Alabama Center for the Book, a program of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, *This Goodly Land* has benefited from the expertise of many Alabama literary scholars, as well the support of many state organizations and agencies.

"A real strength of the literary map is that so many people have put tremendous energy and effort into identifying our writers and providing information about them," notes project director Midge Coates, who serves on the staff of the Alabama Center for the Book. "The help and support of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Council of Teachers of English, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, the Alabama Writers' Forum, the Alabama Public Library Service and the Alabama Humanities Foundation—not to mention the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts'

technical support—have made it a true partnership endeavor.” Funding for the project has been provided by the Alabama Council of Teachers of English, the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Arts Car Tag fund.

The Alabama Center for the Book is the state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Its purpose is to promote books, reading, literacy, publishing and public libraries to citizens of the state. Among its other projects are the Alabama Book Festival, Letters About Literature and Alabama Gets Caught Reading.

To find your favorite author or to learn more about Alabama writers in your area, go to www.alabamaliterarymap.org. For more information about This Goodly Land or other projects of the Alabama Center for the Book, call 334844-4946 or visit www.alabamabookcenter.org.

(Contributed by Mark Wilson)

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