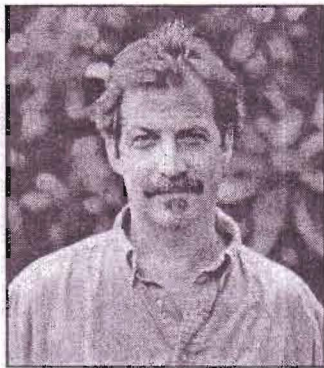


# Saltire

Friends of Houston Cole Library ♦ Volume 3, Issue 2 ♦ Fall, 2000

## Novelist Daniel Wallace to Read

**D**aniel Wallace will read from his new book *Ray in Reverse* at the annual Friends Author's evening **October 12, 2000, 11th floor of Houston Cole Library, 7:30.** A book signing by the author will follow the reading.



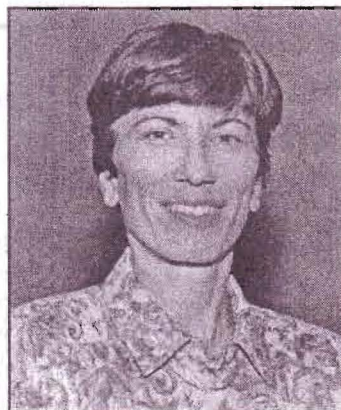
*Daniel Wallace publishes second novel.*

Wallace, who lives in Chapel Hill, adds his new book to *Big Fish*, his first novel. He has sold *Big Fish* to be filmed by Steven Spielberg.

As *Ray in Reverse* begins, Ray Williams is in heaven, telling of his death to a "Last Words" gathering. Frustrated, Ray will examine his life in reverse, looking for clues as to why, at only 50, he died.

In concise, quirky chapters, Ray's life is related by a writer very much in control of his craft. There might be a sense of John Irving and even the tall tales of the old Southwest in *Ray in Reverse*, but Daniel Wallace is a highly original writer. The book is everything a reader could wish for in a novel.

## Dr. Joanne Gates Joins Houston Cole Board



**J**oanne Gates was elected to the Friends Board of Directors in 2000. She has been active in the Friends for years and has made presentations at two Friends lectures.

Dr. Gates is a Professor of English and an internationally recognized scholar on Elizabeth Robins, about whom she has produced two

books, *Elizabeth Robins, 1862-1952: Actress, Novelist, Feminist* and *The Alaska-Klondike Diary of Elizabeth Robins—1900*. She also maintains an Elizabeth Robins web site at [www.jsu.edu/depart/english/robins](http://www.jsu.edu/depart/english/robins).

Professor Gates joined the English Department at Jacksonville State University in 1987. Her B. A. is from Vassar College, and the M.F.A. and Ph.D. were awarded at the University of Massachusetts. She lives in Jacksonville with her husband, Greg. We welcome Dr. Gates to the Friends Board of Directors and look forward to working with her in this capacity.

## Mary Williams Retires

**M**ary Williams, a member of the Friends board and Associate Professor of Elementary Education, retired at the end of August and now resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A noted children's literature scholar, Dr. Williams represented Jacksonville State University as a program personality at numerous regional and national reading and children's lit-

erature conferences. Her community service included membership on the Jacksonville Arts Council, board member of Social Services' Concern for Children in Anniston, a docent at the Anniston Museum, and storytelling programs.

Among Williams' retirement activities are writing and traveling. She will continue to participate in children's literature and storytelling programs. Friends of the Houston Cole Library wish her well.

## Book Reviews on Line

**T**he New York Times has a searchable book review index. Book reviews from 1980 to present are available. First chapters of a great number of recent books are also accessible: <http://www.nytimes.com/books/>.

The New York Review of Books has an on-line site, with its archives available from 1996 to present: <http://www.nybooks.com/ntrev/>.

Salon Magazine is one of the leading Internet-journalism sites with a very good coverage of recent books, also with a searchable archive: <http://www.salon.com/books/>.



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**Board Member  
Edits Emerson  
Works**

**C**ol Douglas Wilson, longtime member of the Friends board, has returned after several weeks this summer at Harvard University where he worked as chief editor of a new edition of the collected works of Ralph Waldo Emerson. According to Wilson, the new edition will be closer to what Emerson actually wrote than that of the last one published in 1903, the centenary of his birth. It will also include fuller and more informative introductions and explanatory notes.

For the past twenty-five years, Wilson has been the textual editor of the Emerson series. During this time, he has worked at establishing the textual work of several of the volumes and assisted with the others; and for the past three years, he has also served as chief editor. Five of the volumes—corresponding to the first five books that Emerson published—have been issued. Volume Six, **The Conduct of Life** (originally published in 1860), is almost complete.

This past summer, Wilson spent most of his time on the material to be included in the final volume of the edition, which will comprise the prose writings that Emerson published during his lifetime (in magazines, pamphlets, and the like) but never collected in book form. "The manuscripts of some of these writings," Wilson says, "still exist, which help me determine what Emerson actually wrote and intended to be printed."

Ms. Mary Bevis  
Houston Cole Library

Friends of the Houston Cole Library  
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**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.

