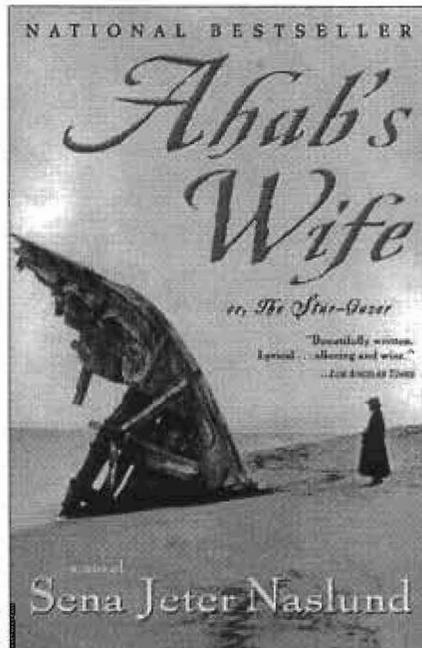


**Sena Jeter Naslund, author of *Ahab's Wife*,
to speak February 24 at JSU Library.**



On Monday evening February 24, 2003, the Friends of the JSU Houston Cole Library will sponsor a reading and talk by Birmingham-native Sena Jeter Naslund.

Naslund, whose *Ahab's Wife, Or, The Star Gazer*, appeared to critical acclaim in 2000, has completed a subsequent novel, *Four Spirits*, set during the years of her own youth in Birmingham, Alabama when the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church killed four young black girls. Currently, she is in residence at Montevallo University as Visiting Faculty. She is director of the short-term residence MFA program in Creative Writing at Spaulding University, editor of *Louisville Review*, and is also a Distinguished Professor on the faculty of University of Louisville.

The wide success of *Ahab's Wife* was accompanied by a flurry of interviews and book signings. In an interview with New York journalist John Woodley, available on line at MostlyFiction.com, she details both the flash of inspiration that made possible her long commitment to the project and the meticulous research that details the rich life behind her heroine, Una Spenser, who begins her narrative with an opening sentence that has since been called one that rivals Melville's own, "Captain Ahab was neither my first husband nor my last." The sentence, the subtitle, "Or, The Star Gazer," the image of a widowed wife searching for her whale-captain husband, and the large scope of the book came to her in an instant, doubtless prompted, she has explained elsewhere, by her daughter asking why there were no women in the *Moby Dick* they were listening to on tape. The novel is rich with details that tie it to Melville's *Moby Dick*, yet it creates a world for her Una that intersects with famous historical people, especially Margaret Fuller and Frederick Douglass. (Even Nathaniel Hawthorne and the young, precocious Henry James make appearances.)