



January 31, 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of the Friends of Sims Library. The Friends support the activities and collections of the Linus A. Sims Memorial Library at Southeastern Louisiana University by generating funds to purchase needed equipment and resources; to provide programs; to sponsor lectures; and to host other special events.

Our annual Marjorie Morrison Memorial Members' Tea will take place on Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. at Sims Library. The doors will open at 1:45. As usual, guests will enjoy a variety of teas and a selection of delicious sandwiches and pastries. Our popular bottomless mimosas will be available for \$10.00. Guests will also enjoy listening to our speaker, Whitney Collins, the author of two books of intriguing short stories, *Big Bad* (2021) and *Ricky and Other Love Stories* (2024), both published by Sarabande Books. Whitney has been described as “fiercely imaginative and devastatingly astute,” “wickedly funny,” and “unflinchingly honest.” Of *Big Bad*, author Jardine Libaire wrote, “While each story is supremely original, the collection reads like an instant modern classic....” Her stories have appeared in a wide variety of journals and collections, and Whitney’s many writing awards include the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, the Pushcart Prize, the American Short(er) Fiction Prize, the INDIES Award for Short Stories, the IPPY Award for Short Story/Fiction, and the Distinguished Story Award from *The Best American Short Stories*. Whitney will be signing her books after the Tea.

The Tea is free to Friends of Sims Library members. Those who renew at the Associate or Patron level may reserve one additional complimentary seat for a guest. Friends at the Lifetime level may reserve a complimentary table for four. The cost for non-members is \$35, which includes your admission to the Tea and an Individual membership in the Friends for 2025-2026. More information can be found at <https://www.southeastern.edu/library/about/friends/index.html>

Additionally, this year we are offering a special VIP event immediately before the Tea, a meet-and-greet with Whitney Collins. Guests will receive a copy of one of her books, champagne and light refreshments, and have a chance to chat with Whitney. The event will take place from 1:00 to 1:45, and registration will be \$25.

We hope that you will renew your membership or join the Friends for the first time. You can pay securely online at [southeastern.edu/librarytea](https://southeastern.edu/librarytea) or complete the enclosed form and send us a check made payable to Southeastern Foundation. Reservations are required for the Tea and the VIP event. The deadline for checks is Friday, February 28, and the deadline for online reservations is noon on Wednesday, March 5. Please mail checks to Friends of Sims Library, SLU 10896, Hammond, LA 70402.

Check out our [Facebook page \(Friends of Sims Library\)](#) regularly for more information on upcoming Library and Friends’ events, and please invite your friends to join! If you have questions about membership or the Tea, please email us at [friends.sims@selu.edu](mailto:friends.sims@selu.edu) or call Janie Branham at 985-549-2186.

Sincerely,

***Eric W. Johnson***

Eric Johnson, President

Friends of Sims Library Executive Board

## Friends of Sims Library Membership Form

To join/renew by credit card please visit [southeastern.edu/librarytea](http://southeastern.edu/librarytea).

☐ I wish to join/renew at the level indicated below. Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Southeastern Foundation and send to Friends of Sims Library, c/o Janie Branham, SLU 10896, Hammond, LA 70402*

☐ Yes ☐ No I will be attending the annual Members' Tea

☐ Yes ☐ No I will also be attending the VIP event (Meet & Greet with author Whitney Collins immediately prior to the Tea, 1:00pm-1:40pm) Guests will receive a copy of one of her books, a glass of champagne and light refreshments, and have a chance to chat with Whitney. Please include an extra \$25 with your membership payment if you plan to attend the VIP event. Thank you for your support of the Friends of Sims Library.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

#### Individual (\$35)

- Invitation to lectures, author readings, and programs
- Advance notice of Friends of Sims Library activities
- One Seat at annual Members' Tea

#### Associate (\$75)

- Benefits of Individual Membership, plus an additional seat at the Members' Tea

#### Patron (\$200)

- Benefits of Associate Membership, plus recognition in event programs

#### Lifetime (\$500)

- Benefits of Patron Membership
- Reserved table for four at the Members' Tea
- Special gift acknowledgement
- Name included on Lifetime Friends plaque in the library

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to receive library updates and upcoming event announcements

☐ I would like to receive upcoming event announcements only

**\* If you have questions about Friends of Sims membership, events, or volunteer opportunities, please send an e-mail to [friends.sims@selu.edu](mailto:friends.sims@selu.edu) or contact Janie Branham at 985 549-2186 .**