Five writers and workshop leaders will be featured at the 31st annual Deep South Writers Conference, Sept. 20-22 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Featured writers and workshop leaders include Janet Burroway, Ernest J. Gaines, Ellen Gilchrist, Edward Hirsch and Sheryl St. Germain.

All events will be held in USL's H.L. Griffin Hall. Burroway studied at Barnard College and Cambridge University. She has been an NBC special fellow in playwriting at Yale School of Drama, taught at the University of Sussex, and written plays for British television. She is also the author of poetry, children's books and seven novels including "The Buzzards," nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; "Raw Silk," nominated for the National Book Award; "Opening Nights," and the forthcoming "Cutting Stone."

Gaines is a Louisiana native and maintains residences in San Francisco and Lafayette, where he is professor and writer-in-residence at USL. His publications include "Of Love and Dusk," "Bloodline," "The Sky is Gray," included in PBS's American Short Story series; "A Long Day in November," and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Gathering of Old Men," both made into films for CBS.

Gilchrist, winner of the 1984 National Book Award for fiction, cites Edith Wharton as her inspiration to write short stories and poetry. Her works include short story collections "In the Land of Dreamy Dreams," "Drunk with Love," "Victory over Japan" and "Light Can Be Both Wave and Particle" and novels "The Annunciation" and "The Anna Papers."

Hirsch was educated at Grinnell College and the University of Pennsylvania. He has published three books of poems: "For the Sleepwalkers" (1961), "Wild Gratitude" (1966) and "The Night Parade" (1989). He publishes poems and reviews in a variety of literary magazines and periodicals, among them The New Yorker, The Nation, The New Republic and The New York Times Book Review.

St. Germain is a translator and poet with degrees from the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and the University of Texas in Dallas. Her publications include "The Mask of Medusa," "Going Home," translations of poems by Denise Grappe and Annie Salager in "Sands," and forthcoming in "Lips" translations of poems by Claude de Burine.

St. Germain served as executive secretary for the American Literary Translators Association and joined the USL faculty this year.

On Sept. 20, the conference will begin with student readings 3:30-5 p.m. in Griffin Hall, Room 315. Registration for the conference will be 9 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m., with panel discussions set for 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. A reading is scheduled for 7 p.m.

A hospitality room will be open at 8 a.m. on Sept. 22, followed by another craft lecture and more readings.

Registration fee for the conference is $15, and $25 after Sept. 15. Students with valid I.D. cards pay $15 at the door. Checks should be made payable to Deep South Writers Conference, and mailed to Dr. James D. Wilson, USL Box 4691, Lafayette, LA 70504. For more information on the conference, call (318) 231-6998; or write to Wilson at the above address.

A special conference rate is available at Travelodge; call (318) 235-6893 before Sept. 1 for reserved rooms. In addition, Hotel Acadiana offers a special rate to anyone attending a USL event. For reservations, call (318) 233-3120.

Writer's Lineup

Speakers at the conference will be (clockwise) Ellen Gilchrist, Sheryl St. Germain, Ernest J. Gaines, Janet Burroway and Edward Hirsch.