Conference brings writers throughout the country to USL

The 23rd annual Deep South Writers' Conference, scheduled for Sept. 23-25 at H.L. Griffin Hall is expected to bring in writers from throughout the country.

At the conference, which is free to USL students, seminars will be given on everything from science fiction to song lyrics, short stories to poetry, and novels to plays.

Guests scheduled to speak at the event include Jonathan Holden, author of "A Design for a House" "Leverage" and "Falling from Stardom," poet and winner of 1982 AWP award series; John D. Loudermilk, composer, lyricist, veteran of the music publishing business and holder of numerous gold records both as performer and producer; and Joel Climenhaga, author of "Heathen Pioneer" and "Marriage Wheel," playwright and recipient of Rockefeller Playwriting Grant.

Other writers that will be featured speakers of the conference include George Alex Effinger, author of "What Entropy Means to Me," "The Bird of Time," and "The Stone Fire," science fiction novelist and short story writer; Abbeville author Chris Segura, author of "Marshland Brace" and "Bayou Fantasia;" James Lee Burke, author of "Half of Paradise" and "To the Bright and Shining Sun," novelist and short story writer; and Rodger Kamenetz, author of "The Missing Jew."

Dr. Ernest J. Gaines, USL writer-in-residence and internationally famous author whose works include "The Auto Biography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "Catherine Carmier" will be a distinguished guest at the conference and will read from his new work "A Gathering of Old Men" in a special session of the Conference, at 10 a.m., Sun., Sept. 25.

The conference schedule will begin with a presentation of plays written by members of Deep South on Friday, Sept. 23 in Burke Hall at 7:30 p.m. Continuing on Saturday registration will begin at 8 a.m. in HLG 315. Guest speakers will be available for conferences when not in workshops and the conference will end Sunday with the reading by Gaines.

The Deep South Writers' Conference also provides competition judged by professional artists. Attendance at the conference is not mandatory to enter the competitions or win awards, and there are no entry fees.

Fiction awards include the Ione Burden Award for Fiction, $100; the Dubus Award for short stories, $200; the Julia Collier Award for juvenile works, $25, and drama award, $25. The Non-fiction category winner will receive $25; poetry award, $25; and drama award $25.

Decisions of the judges are final. In case of a tie, awards will be duplicated. Reasonable care will be taken in the handling of all entries, but neither the Deep South Writers' Conference or USL can be responsible for loss or damage to entries.

The registration fee for the Deep South Writer's Conference is $10, but students are exempt from this fee. Preregistration is not necessary and can be done Friday night or Saturday morning in HLG 315.