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For Immediate Release

ALICE WALKER TO GIVE READING AT EMORY

Author's Appearance Celebrates Arrival of Her Archive

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winner and internationally known Georgia-born novelist and poet, will give a public reading at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 at Emory University's Glenn Memorial Auditorium, 1652 N. Decatur Road.

Tickets, which go on sale Monday, March 17, are \$10 for the public, \$5 for Emory faculty, students and staff, and will be available in person at the Arts at Emory box office, located in the Schwartz Center at 1700 N. Decatur Road, by phone at 404-727-5050, or online at <http://www.arts.emory.edu>. There is a \$3.50 handling charge per order for online and phone sales.

Walker's appearance in Atlanta is her first since her archive came to Emory in December 2007. In light of the occasion, the reading will include a sweep of her major work, says Stephen Enniss, director of Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library.

Included in the archive are journals Walker had kept over the years, drafts of many of her early works of fiction, and correspondence between her and the editors of her books. Rudolph Byrd, professor of American studies at Emory, said at the time of the acquisition that Walker's papers "give you a sense of the process for creating fiction, creating poetry."

"A national treasure, the Walker archive contains more than 50 years of thinking and writing by Alice Walker, who is a canonical figure in American and African American letters," says Byrd, founding member of the Alice Walker Literary Society, an international organization of Walker scholars and enthusiasts.

Emory's African American literary collections include significant collections related to the Harlem Renaissance novelists and poets Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson, and the papers of the Georgia-born novelist John Oliver Killens. The Camille Billops and James V. Hatch collection of African American performing arts materials includes hundreds of playscripts including works by Zora Neale Hurston and August Wilson, among many others.

Walker's appearance is sponsored by the Emory Libraries, the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, the James Weldon Johnson Institute and the Creative Writing Program.

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The [Emory University Libraries](#) in Atlanta and Oxford, Ga., are dedicated to fostering courageous inquiry among students and scholars at Emory University and around the world. The nine libraries' holdings include more than 3.1 million print and electronic volumes, 40,000-plus electronic journals, and internationally renowned special collections.

Emory University (<http://www.emory.edu>) is one of the nation's leading private research universities and a member of the Association of American Universities. Known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate college of arts and sciences, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities, Emory is ranked as one of the country's top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to its nine schools, the university encompasses The Carter Center, Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Emory Healthcare, the state's largest and most comprehensive health care system.

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