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"Emerson County Shaping Dream", and Poetry Reading

Jo McDougall

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Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture Eighth Annual - October 20, 2005

"Emerson County Shaping Dream", and Poetry Reading

Jo McDougall, speaker

Special Collections, Axe Library

7:00 p.m.

Arkansas born poet and Associate Professor Emeritus, Jo McDougall, will return to Pittsburg State University to show a film and read her poetry at the 2005 Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture. The lecture will take place on Thursday, October 20th at 7 PM in the Special Collections department of Axe Library. The film she will show, **Emerson County Shaping Dream** is based on her poetry and was co-produced by McDougall and Don Maxwell, who also directed.

In the film Jo McDougall's poems provide the entire script for five Southern women who tell their stories. Though startlingly different, (They take place in such disparate locations as an upper middle class home and a feed store,) they are united by a common dream. The dream is based on a code that young women in the South and elsewhere were once raised with: finding the right man equals finding the right life - and all the romance, respect and status that goes with it. **Emerson County Shaping Dream** was previously featured at the Annual Fayetteville, Arkansas film festival in January 2003.

McDougall taught at PSU from 1987 to 1996 and was honored at the [Faculty Author Receptions in 1988 and 1991](#) for her collections [The Woman in the Next Booth](#) and [Towns Facing Railroads](#). Other collections by Dr. McDougall in the Library are: [Dirt, From Darkening Porches](#) and [Satisfied With Havoc](#). Her poetry has also appeared in the [Kenyon Review](#), the [Hudson Review](#), the [New Orleans Review](#) and other periodicals. Dr. McDougall now resides in the Kansas City, KS area.
