



**PRESENTATION OF THE HERMAN T. POTT  
NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS LIBRARY'S  
DONALD T. WRIGHT AWARD &  
JAMES SWIFT MEDAL**

Saturday, December 1st, 2012

6 - 9 PM

Awarded to notable authors and journalists  
of distinguished river-related literature and art

**Earl Swift**, 2012 recipient of the Captain Donald T. Wright Award, is a graduate of UMSL's political science program. He also earned his MFA in creative nonfiction from Goucher College in Baltimore. Mr. Swift has written for newspapers in Anchorage, Norfolk, and St. Louis, where he worked at the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. His newest book, *The Big Roads*, has been extremely well-reviewed and was a New York Times editors' choice.

Mr. Swift is receiving the Wright Award for his book *Journey on the James: Three Weeks Through the Heart of Virginia*, a riveting story combining his 435-mile journey on the river with its interesting and lively history. Earl Swift has been a Fullbright fellow, PEN finalist, and five-time Pulitzer Prize nominee. He is currently a writer-in-residence at the University of Virginia.

**Gregory Thorp**, 2012 recipient of the James V. Swift Medal, is one of the great photographers of the life, workers and industry of the inland waterways of the United States. Mr. Thorp has had numerous photographs appear in the *Waterways Journal*, and his book *Rivers Run Past* is a fascinating look at life and labor aboard the *m/v O. Nelson Jones*. His book of photography, *A Year Of Corn*, won special recognition by the AIGA. Mr. Thorp's works can also be seen at the Seamen's Church Institute, at their Paducah, Houston, Oakland and Port Newark centers.



You don't want to miss a night of river fun and steamboat lore  
at the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM - St. Louis!

The program includes:

Live folk musicians, the Buckhannon Brothers

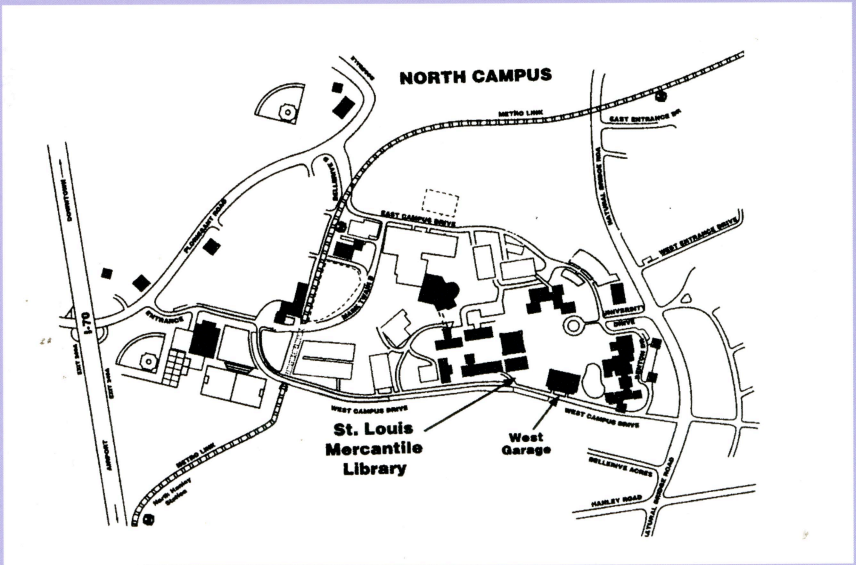
A sumptuous dinner for the festive holiday season

Presentations of the Donald T. Wright Award and James V.  
Swift Medal

Remarks by the award recipients, author/journalist Earl Swift  
and photographer Gregory Thorp

A new exhibition: Life and Labor on the Inland Waterways of  
America

For more information please contact  
Sean Visintainer at 314-516-7244 or [visintainers@umsl.edu](mailto:visintainers@umsl.edu)



There will be free parking in the West Garage for the evening's event.

Front cover illustration from a Christmas card from Ruth Ferris in the James V. Swift Collection at the Herman T. Pott National Waterways Library