Doris without End, Amen

Doris Betts retiring? Isn’t that an oxymoron or something? A vivid presence on this campus since 1966, Doris is recognized throughout the State as its First Lady of Literature; she is the chief reason the Creative Writing Program has prospered and can claim a national reputation for excellence. It’s not an exaggeration to say that in her inexhaustible dedication to this University, she is to the Department of English what Coach Dean Smith has meant to basketball here at Carolina. Just ask any one of her successfully published students whether or not she taught them how to slam-dunk a manuscript.

We all know that, in retirement, Doris Betts will continue to write. We expect to see evidence of her ongoing affiliation with officiially as moderator, trustee, critic, contest judge, panelist, reader, speaker, community leader, and honoree of awards and prizes she hasn’t yet already won. We’re not losing the public Doris at all, who is not the retiring type at all. We’ll all miss her in the classroom, but somewhere out there, she’ll keep on teaching, too, because the call to teach is, for Doris Betts, the very drum roll of her heart. Her teaching won’t necessarily be formalized by classroom settings or semesters, but it will flourish in her everyday gesture, remark, or email, because Doris can’t stop. It’s worth noting that during her last year of teaching – when she might have cut herself some slack – she was the recipient of a 2001 “Favorite Faculty Award.”

I’d like her to speak for herself now, to leave readers with an impression of who she has been through thick and thin over the years to her students: mentor and trusted friend to so many young hearts and minds. What follows is an email which she copied to me recently about an unhappy student. It conveys both empathy and reality check, the twin virtues of a master teacher. She would also add “cussedness” to that because she always believed persistent hard work over luck takes a writer where a writer wants to go.

To: An Honors Student

From: Doris Betts

What you do wrong is not in your writing but in your self-flagellation, i.e., why would you think you had failed because someone else won a prize? That’s like assuming you didn’t get a job and another applicant did, so there’s something WRONG with you.

In job seeking, contest winning, editors accepting manuscripts, there are matters of taste, fit, etc. For what it’s worth, you were very close and if there had been another prize, you would have gotten it. I sat on the committee enough to know that they admired your writing very much but were puzzled by what the story had to SAY... This is not a matter of anything being WRONG. It may well be that another committee will like the uncertainty? What I want to know and what is far more important to your future is when are you going to quit beating up on
yourself? I've already told you, and will say again, how much I like your prose, admire your originality, believe you can go on and write if you choose to do so (but not if you're going to drive with the brakes always on). Writing is not a matter of comparison like a footrace. There are more writers in America with wider readership than I, bigger incomes, larger sales, more editors salivating, and I know absolutely that some are FAR WORSE writers than I am. So what? What does this have to do with the sentence I set down on the page and try to make good? Are you committed to WRITING or to being rewarded for writing? You're very good. You know that. Don't waste your energy on chewing yourself up.

It's advice for a lifetime, isn't it?
Praise be to Doris without end.
Writer, teacher, mentor, friend.

- Marianne Gingher, Director
On behalf of the entire staff of The Creative Writing Program

*Below left: Doris Betts, guiding light of UNC's Creative Writing Program (1966-2001)*
*Right: Our new Doris Betts professor, Pam Durban*
From the Director

CREATIVE WRITING AT CAROLINA, 2000-2001

To condense into a few pages what has to have been one of the busiest and most exciting years in the history of this writing program is a daunting task, but I shall try. Headliner news is that through the magnanimous generosity of UNC alumnus Frank Borden Hanes ’42 from Winston-Salem, long-time supporter of this University, an undergraduate creative writing scholarship has been permanently established. Named the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Scholarship, the award honors Wolfe’s creative involvement on this campus and makes available to one entering freshman (who displays outstanding literary skills and promise) a four-year tuition package and living stipend similar to the well-known Morehead scholarship. It is the first creative writing award at this level in University history. We plan to select the first Thomas Wolfe Memorial scholar for the academic year 2002-03. Once clear guidelines are established, application information will be available on the English Department’s website.

There is important news, good and bad, to report on the faculty front. First the good news. After an exhaustive search (more than forty applicants) for the Doris Betts Professor in Creative Writing, our first chaired position in fiction – made possible through the initial largesse of Ben Jones ’50 and contributions by hundreds of alumni and fans of Doris Betts – the search committee reached a unanimous decision, approved by the English department’s full professors, to hire Georgia State University Professor, Pam Durban. Durban’s fiction includes a book of stories, All Set About with Fever Trees, and two novels, The Laughing Place and So Far Back. Her work is also included in John Updike’s recent anthology Best American Short Stories of the Century. A graduate of the prestigious Iowa Writer’s Workshop, Durban brings to the position many years of masterful teaching, experience founding and editing the highly praised literary journal, Five Points, and a number of prizes and citations for excellence in her writing.

The bad news is that Doris Betts retires, effective July 2001. None of us can actually believe she will walk briskly into the sunset and devote herself to writing full-time. Personally, I can hardly bear to think of life in this writing program without her continuing guidance and “cussedness” (her word), her hearty laughter and probing insight and wisdom, wit, grace, and spirit. Not for nothing do we all consider her the First Lady of North Carolina’s literary scene. But Doris has never accepted boundaries, has always pushed the envelope (in a dignified way, of course). I’m imagining she’ll push the boundaries of retirement as well and let us re-claim her, now and again, in new and surprising ways. From all of us who have had the privilege to teach alongside her and/or claim her for a mentor or friend, we wish her much success, long and satisfying writing days, time to nitpick over her own writing for a change, time for friends and family and books and musings, even while she continues to muck out the stalls of her nearly two dozen horses at her beloved Araby farm in Pittsboro. Teaching vigorously since the mid-1960’s, she’s been the bulwark of this program. I suppose our loss is her gain, and that she’s thinking, as she reads this little tribute, that when you reach the point where someone refers to you as a bulwark in print, it’s time to streamline.

During the past year, our students and faculty were treated to visits by poets Kate Daniels and Ron Wallace, sponsored by the Blanche Britt Armfield Poetry Series which was established by Ms. Armfield to champion the cause of poetry on the UNC campus. Sadly, Ms.
Armfield passed away last June. In the last communication I received from her, she expressed a strong desire to use a portion of the money in the Armfield Fund to establish an annual student poetry prize. This year we honored Ms. Armfield’s request. The first Armfield Poetry Award went to rising senior Honors student Margaret Kopp ’02.

Other special visitors to campus who gave readings and/or worked with writing students included Wallace Kaufman (who taught here in the late 60s and early 70s), Jan DeBlieu, and Jenny Offill (a former creative writing student here). Kaufman read from his new book Coming Out of the Woods: The Solitary Life of a Maverick Naturalist. Jan DeBlieu, winner of the John Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Natural History Writing and author of three books about people and nature, including her 1998 Wind, spoke about changes on the Outer Banks. Jenny Offill, author of the novel Last Things, spoke to creative writing students about leading the life of a successful writer – its perils and joys – in New York.

Our weeklong Morgan Writer-in-Residence program brought John Edgar Wideman to campus. Wideman gave a public reading of work-in-progress about street basketball, met informally with creative writing students, spoke to several workshop classes, and enjoyed the company of English and creative writing faculty alike. The Morgan Writer-in-Residency, established by Allen and Musette Morgan of Memphis in 1994 has, to date, brought the following distinguished writers to UNC for a stimulating week of intellectual enrichment: Shelby Foote, Beth Henley, Annie Dillard, Richard Ford, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Richard Wilbur, Russell Banks, and John Edgar Wideman. Tobias Wolff will be our 2002 Morgan Writer.

The Creative Writing Program continues to expand its offerings and routinely serves 250-300 students any given semester. This past year our first Kanan Visiting Professor, poet Christine Garren, taught introduction to poetry. Novelist Lawrence Naumoff ’69 taught fiction workshops and independent studies. Durham writer Georgeann Eubanks was hired to teach an additional section of creative non-fiction, and Margaret Rabb returned to teach poetry classes. Laurence Avery continues to share his dramatist’s expertise with our program, and taught play writing. Regular adjuncts, Mike Chitwood and Sarah Dessen, returned for another year of inspired teaching.

Marianne Gingher (left) and Sarah Dessen
Space doesn’t permit me to document all our faculty’s numerous accomplishments, but I will spotlight a few noteworthy items: Sarah Dessen’s latest novel *Dreamland* was picked by Amazon as a 2000 “Editor’s Choice for Teen Books” (one out of ten). Alan Shapiro was the 2001 winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award for his book *The Dead Alive and Busy*. Margaret Rabb’s book of poems, *Granite Dives*, won the Roanoke Chowan award in November. Daphne Athas’ novel *Entering Ephesus* has been optioned by Drew Barrymore’s production company for motion picture development. Doris Betts received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Christianity and Literature Conference at MLA, and her acceptance address appears in the current issue of its journal. Mike Chitwood had four poems featured on Garrison Keillor’s “Writer’s Almanac” during the year. Michael McFee published two books this past year, *This is Where We Live: Short Stories by 25 North Carolina Writers* (UNC Press), which he edited, and a collection of poems, *Earthly* (Carnegie Mellon University Press). Jim Seay was named to the UNC Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars as an inaugural member. Marianne Gingher’s memoir of her Southern girlhood, *A Girl’s Life: Horses, Boys, Weddings & Luck*, was published in June by Louisiana State University Press.

Our students have been the real stars this year. Many of our seniors who took Honors in poetry or fiction applied to graduate programs around the country with great success. Grad school bound poets include: Sterling Garmon (U. of Texas at Austin) to study physics; Angela Faith Lea (MFA program, full scholarship to University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Kim O’Connor (UNC’s MAT Program, School of Education); Adam Tarleton (MFA Program, UNC-Greensboro);

Kristen Williams (U. of California at Irvine, full scholarship); Erin Wunker (University of Toronto). Grad school acceptances for fiction writers include: Courtney Jones (full scholarship to Hollins University); Adam Whitehurst (MFA Program, Emerson); Teng Mona (either U. Chicago or UNC) for medical school; Kate Goldstein (U. of Indiana); Clayton Capps (grad program in art and creative writing at NYU); Emily Nelson (Harvard) for medical school. Quite an admirable group of students, a bumper crop year for success stories.

And speaking of success, the following are creative writing prize-winners for 2000-2001:

BLANCHE ARMFIELD POETRY PRIZE:
Margaret Kopp

DORIS SMITH WILLIAMS PRIZE, POETRY:
Angela Lea and Kimberly O’Connor

ROBERT B. HOUSE AWARD, POETRY:
Meagan Michaud Patterson

TRUMAN CAPOTE SENIOR FICTION PRIZE:
Kate Goldstein and Adam Whitehurst

LOUIS D. RUBIN PRIZE FOR FICTION:
Patrick William Reynolds

MAX STEELE AWARD FOR FICTION:
Courtney Amanda Jones

TRUMAN CAPOTE JUNIOR FICTION PRIZE:
Brian Knight and Christopher Peterson

GEORGE B. WYNNE AWARD FOR FICTION:
John Walter Cartwright
I can’t stress enough how valuable contributions, large and small, made by our donors and friends are to the well-being and morale of our Program. Thanks to all who have supported Creative Writing through the years. Special thanks to Ben Jones for his visionary leadership in our campaign to raise money for the Doris Betts Distinguished Professorship which is now a reality. Thanks to R. Alex Rankin of Kentucky (who once studied poetry with Jim Seay) for his creation of a support fund for our Program and to Charles B. Collins of Rockingham, NC whose Angela B. Collins Scholarship will offer financial aid of $1500 this year to a deserving creative writing student. Ben and Anne Bolch continue to serve as our Christmas angels, each year delivering a welcomed check along with a Christmas card, just as I’m turning in fall semester grades. We are also grateful to Random House Publishers for establishing the Wanda Chappell Scholarship which supports a writing student of high merit and, also, to Wanda Chappell’s immediate family who continue to contribute to that fund in honor of Ms. Chappell’s bright spirit. Thanks to Mary Friday ’78 who created the Willie Lavonsa Moore Prize in Creative Non-Fiction (our richest student prize) in honor of a beloved classmate.

EXCITING UPDATE

R. Alexander Rankin (BA ’77) recently doubled his initial $100,000 pledge to enhance the Creative Writing Support Fund that he established in 1999. He cited the fine teaching of his Honors poetry professor, Jim Seay, as part of the inspiration behind the gift. Rankin lives in Goschen, KY where he and his wife Sarah raise Thoroughbred horses. Their sons, Taylor and Hunter, are students at UNC-CH. Mr. Rankin’s extraordinary generosity makes possible funding to support a number of ongoing creative writing projects and programs, including this newsletter. Our gratitude is immense.
We continue to invite contributions from enthusiastic alumni and friends to the Doris Betts/Jesse Rehder Creative Writing Fund, which was established at the time we began to raise money for the Betts Professorship. The goal of the Betts/Rehder fund is to attract financial support with flexible purpose for the Creative Writing program. The continued vitality of the Program depends on our ability to offer broader opportunities for our students in the form of internships, merit awards, summer study scholarships, visiting speakers. Readers interested in contributing to the Betts/Rehder Fund should send contributions to: Jamie May, the Arts and Sciences Foundation/CB #6115/ Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

- Marianne Gingher
  Director
  Creative Writing Program

Below (clockwise from top left): Jim Seay and Michael McFee; Ruth Moose and Paul Ferguson, who teaches performance and adaptation for the Communication Studies Department, and whose class adapted the fiction of Moose, Marianne Gingher, and Sarah Dessen for his “Southern Writers in Performance” series; and Poets Alan Shapiro and Mike Chitwood with Bill Andrews, Chair of the English Department.
**PAM DURBAN’S GOT CLASS**

By Jessie Tucker

From a pool of over 30 applicants, all highly qualified to teach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, it was Pam Durban who stood out the most to the committee searching for the first Doris Betts Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing.

The new endowed chair is named for the celebrated creative writing professor, who retired after more than 35 years at UNC. The English Department established the chair with a generous gift from 1950 alumnus Ben M. Jones III of Naples, Florida, and Hendersonville, N.C., and with contributions from more than 200 individuals. About Betts’ retirement and the new professorship, program director Marianne Gingher said, “I cannot imagine this place without Doris, but I’m having to. She truly has been for years a living legend, but those of us in Creative Writing are satisfied that we have found a stellar replacement in Pam Durban, who will make her own unique legendary contributions to our program.”

Durban, whose appointment was approved on August 10 by the University Board of Governors, will officially become the Betts professor in January 2002. She is teaching this fall semester as a visiting professor.

Born and raised in Aiken, S.C., Durban received her bachelor’s degree from UNC-Greensboro in 1969 and her master’s of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa’s prestigious writing program in 1979. She has published two novels, _The Laughing Place_ (Scribner’s, 1993), recipient of the 1994 Townsend Prize for Fiction; and _So Far Back_ (Picador, 2000), which won the 2001 Lillian Smith Award. She has also published a collection of short fiction, _All Set About With Fever Trees and Other Stories_ (1985). Her stories and novel excerpts have appeared in numerous journals, such as _The Georgia Review, Epoch, The Southern Review, The Indiana Review, Crazyhorse, Tri-Quarterly, and The Ohio Review_. Her work has been chosen for anthologies including _Best Short Stories of the Twentieth Century_ (edited by John Updike); _The Best American Short Stories, 1997_ (ed. by Shannon Ravenel); _The Editor’s Choice, Volume II; New Stories from the South, The Year’s Best_ (1988, 1997, ed. by Shannon Ravenel); _New Worlds of Literature_; and _New Stories by Southern Women_. She also published an essay titled “Layers” in _The Confidence Woman_ in 1992, and her essay/letter titled “That Way He Could Work It” appeared in Frederick Busch’s _Letters to a Young Writer_.

Durban has received numerous awards and grants for her fiction, including a 1997 National Endowments for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, the James Michener Writing Fellowship from the University of Iowa, two Ohio Arts Council Individual Artists Fellowships, the Crazyhorse Fiction Award, the 1987 Whiting Writer’s Award, and the 1984 Rinehart Award in Fiction. She directed the Creative Writing Program at Ohio University from 1981 to 1986, then directed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the writing program at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She also co-founded and edited _Five Points_, the literary magazine published by the Department of English at GSU.

As a student in Pam Durban’s first Honors 99 Fiction Writing course at UNC, I have the privilege of getting to know her on a more personal level, beyond the details and facts of when she published and where. From the first day of the semester, I saw that Pam truly deserved to fill the Doris Betts chair, a position meant for someone who devoted herself to examining every sentence of a student’s story, and to offering invaluable suggestions on how to make plots and subplots form a complete whole. I’m not sure what I’ll remember most about my senior fiction workshop when I graduate from Carolina: the evenings we spent discussing “generic versus specific” writing, the times Pam taught us that we could
laugh at – and learn from – our mistakes, or some other piece of priceless information that I know she will generously share in the months to come. But I know one of my greatest lessons has already been learned, on the day that Pam took a published short story and dissected it, one sentence at a time, to “de-mystify” it and show us why the story was complete. This lesson was one of the most valuable gifts ever given to me as an aspiring author; after all, how can we write if we don’t know how to write? I thank all of those who made the Doris Betts Professorship possible, and Pam Durban for choosing to come to UNC.

* * *

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOLARSHIP

Carolina-bound high school seniors have always yearned for the University’s coveted Morehead Scholarship, which provides full four-year tuition and summer stipends to intern, research, or study abroad. Beginning Fall 2002, the UNC Creative Writing Department and the Department of English will offer an equal level of financial support to one incoming freshman per year, with a scholarship named after one of North Carolina’s greatest authors: the new Thomas Wolfe Scholarship. This scholarship opportunity was made possible by a generous endowment, established by Frank Borden Hanes of Winston-Salem, a long-time friend and benefactor of UNC and a writer himself.

Whereas the Morehead Scholarship emphasizes a candidate’s exemplary leadership, community service, academic achievement and athletic performance, the Thomas Wolfe Scholarship will reward students with exceptional writing ability and literary promise. A committee directed by Bland Simpson and Marianne Gingher, head of the Creative Writing Program, will ultimately base their decision on written work submitted by candidates, looking for “artistic merit” as “the chief criterion.” The committee will accept submissions of poetry, fiction, plays, and literary nonfiction (belles-lettres, literary journalism, memoir, nature and travel essays, and personal narratives), and even allow students to send multiple genres, though submissions are limited to one application per student.

The committee also requires applicants to send up to fifty pages in prose, forty in poetry, or sixty in play writing. Applicants must also complete a questionnaire and submit a five-hundred-word personal essay entitled “Why I Write.” The deadline is November 15, 2001, and the committee plans to complete preliminary screening by January, 2002. In March, five final candidates will be invited to campus for interviews, and a final decision for one talented (and lucky!) student will be made by the end of March.

Gingher is especially enthusiastic about taking part in the development of the new scholarship. “What a joy it is to be part of a program that attracts the kind of donor who esteems imaginative writing,” she said. “The Wolfe Scholarship is a milestone opportunity for young undergraduate talent and a vote of confidence in what our writing program strives to achieve: making creative writing a respected, integral part of a liberal arts education.”

* * * *

LITERARY FESTIVAL RETURNS

UNC will again host the North Carolina Literary Festival in Spring 2002. Scheduled for April 5-6, the celebration will bring more than 50 nationally known and regional authors to campus, including Doris Betts, Alan Gurganus, Lee Smith, and Lucille Clifton. There will be readings, performances, exhibits, and discussions, all of which will encourage reading and writing, particularly in the South. Friends of the Library groups at Duke, N.C. State, and UNC have united to sponsor the festival, to be held every other year. The first festival was held in Chapel Hill in 1998; in the future, each campus will take turns hosting the festival.
Second Sunday Readings, 2000-2001

Sunday, September 9, 2001:
Special event celebrating the start of the 10th year of Second Sunday Readings: all 112 previous readers in the series were invited back to be recognized for their contributions to contemporary North Carolina literature, and to hear Doris Betts read from her new short fiction.

Sunday, October 14, 2001:
Fiction: David Payne, Hillsborough
(two novels, Ruin Creek and Gravesend Light)
Poetry/Nonfiction: David Brendan Hopes, UNC-Asheville
(two books of nonfiction and two of poetry, most recently A Childhood in the Milky Way)

Sunday, November 11, 2001:
Fiction: Pamela Duncan, Graham
(first novel, Moon Women, widely and favorably reviewed)
Poetry/Translations: John Balaban, N.C. State
(eleven books of poetry and prose, most recently Spring Essence: The Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong)

[No reading in December; semester break.]

Sunday, January 13, 2002:
Fiction: Susan Dodd, Ocracoke
(six books, most recently The Silent Woman)
Poetry: Joseph Bathanti, Mitchell Community College, Statesville
(four books of poetry, many works of nonfiction, literary criticism, and fiction, most recently East Liberty)

Sunday, February 10, 2002:
Fiction: Tommy Hays, UNC-Asheville
(two novels, most recently In the Family Way)
Poet: Margaret Rabb, Chapel Hill
(several books, most recently Granite Dives)

[No reading in March; spring break]

Sunday, April 14, 2002:
Fiction: Susan S. Kelly, Greensboro
(two novels, most recently Even Now)
Nonfiction: Columnist Barry Saunders, Raleigh
(highly acclaimed columnist for The News & Observer)

Note: With one exception—we have never repeated a reader. The series is jointly sponsored by the Creative Writing Program, the North Caroliniana Society, and the University's North Carolina Collection. We meet at 2:30 in the Pleasants Family Assembly Room of Wilson Library. Readings last about an hour and are free and open to the public. The Bulls Head Bookshop sells the authors' books afterwards, and refreshments are served. A very good time is had by all. For more information, contact coordinator Michael McFee at (919) 962-3461.
Daphne Athas, Bland Simpson, and Laurence Avery pose for a picture at a creative writing faculty gathering.

DO TELL!

Again, your response to our query-postcard earlier this year was terrific. Please do tell us what you’re up to next, and please let us know where other alumni are and what they’re about. We at the Creative Writing Program take great pride in your accomplishments, and we love to spread the word. Email: [mbging@email.unc.edu] [bsimpson@email.unc.edu] or [coombs@email.unc.edu].

*   *   *

Creative Writing at Carolina

Still available, this 16-page booklet looks at the past and present of our extraordinary undergraduate tradition. For a copy, please send SASE (6x9) with 55 cents postage to:

BOOKLET / Creative Writing Program
Dept. of English, CB # 3520
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520

*   *   *
Alums All Over

ALEX ALBRIGHT ('72) has moved to Fountain, NC with his wife and son Silas, 2.

NOEL H. BALLENTINE, MD ('74) directs geriatric health for the Division of Internal Medicine at Hershey-Penn State University and published a book chapter in 10 Common Geriatric Problems. Children Anne, 11, and Kess, 15, are taking lessons in piano/cello and violin/voice.

DAN BARLOW ('73) is Editor-in-Chief at Aardwolf Press. His publications include Play Cribbage to Win (Sterling, 2000) and a prize-winning science fiction novelette, “A Conversation with Schlegelman,” that appeared in Writers of the Future vol XVI (Bridge 2000).

TESSA BLAKE ('91) wrote two articles about Poland for the fall 2000 issues of Travel and leisure and Outside. Her debut feature film, “Five Wives, Three Secretaries and Me,” was named one of the Outstanding Documentaries of 1999 by the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences, and will be honored in a screening series in Los Angeles in March.


SUZANNE BOLCH ('88) is writer and Executive Producer of “Our Hero,” a Canadian TV drama about a teenager girl who writes for a 'zine. She and her business partner also wrote 13 episodes of The Discovery Channel’s “The Screech Owls.” Bolch and husband Michael Lyster hope to travel throughout Great Britain and parts of Europe next spring.

EDNA BROWN ('79) was Entertainment Editor for Christianity.com and interviewed celebrities such as Randy Travis, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Ricky Scaggs. She recently returned to freelance writing and producing, and is currently finishing a feature-length screenplay.

BURT BRUTON ('73) is an attorney with Greenberg Traurig, P.A., in Miami, Fla. He has written several songs that were recorded by Kathy Anne Linkous on her country music album “Too Far South.”

R. W. “BUDDY” BURNISKE ('82) is Professional Development Coordinator with World Links for Development. His publications include Literacy in the Cyberage: Composing Ourselves Online (Skylight, 2000) and Breaking Down the Digital Walls: Learning to Teach in a Post-Modern World (State University of NY, 2001).

BROOKE CALTON ('97), who received her M.A. in English from N.C. State University in spring 2001, reviewed Daniel Patterson’s A Tree Accurst in the Fall '01, issue of Southern Cultures magazine.

KRISTEN CAMPBELL ('01) is spending her time out west working on her poetry.

CLAY CARMICHAEL ('79) continues as a children’s author and illustrator, commercial designer and illustrator, and outreach professor at N.C. State. Her recent publications include The Secret to Their Success: How 33 Women have Made Their Dreams Come True (Carolina Women’s Press, Dec. 2000) and Lonesome Bear (North-South, April 2001). She married Sculptor Mike Roig in March 2001.

STEVEN ALAN CARR ('86) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at IU-Purdue at Fort Wayne. His most recent publication is Hollywood and Anti-Semitism: A Cultural History (Cambridge Univ., 2001).

DORRIE CASEY ('78) studies music/voice at Meredith College. She sang the principal role of Sister Agatha in the
world premier production of the opera *Felice*.

**PETER CASHWELL ('85)** teaches at Woodberry Forest School. He has written book reviews for www.Readerville.com and is negotiating with a publisher for the rights to his first book, a non-fiction work on birds. He is married to Kelly Dalton '85.

**ELIZABETH LEWIS CORLEY ('76)** married Joseph Megel '96 and is currently writing screenplays. Her poem “Near Foaling” was published in the summer issue of *Feminist Studies*.

**KELLY DALTON ('85)** works at the Orange County Library and has published book reviews at www.Readerville.com.

**KIM DEBRA RUHL DEARTH ('89)** is working on her fifth book, *The Compassion of Dogs*. She has published four other books and free-lances for *Dog World* magazine, and has relocated to South Dakota with her husband and son Dylan, 1.

**WILLIAM DEBUYS ('72)** serves as chair of the Valles Caldera Trust, established by Congress to manage the 89,000 Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico. His fourth book, *Seeing Things Whole: The Essential John Wesley Powell* (Shearwater/Island) was published in July 2001. He has two children: Kate, a sophomore at Northwestern University, and Dave, a high school junior.

**S. P. DILLEY ('80)** is a staff physician in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she lives with her husband and children Ruth, 13, and Benjamin, 11. She is also peer reviewer and occasional editor of medical journal articles.

**ROBERT DONNAN ('92)** is Senior Associate with the Aspen Institute at Washington, D.C. and Eli Whitney, NC. He co-produced Steve March’s CD “Blue Moon Diner.”

**ALI FISCHER ('99)** finished a two year program at the U.S. Student Association in Washington, D.C., and moved to Miami to organize communities around prison reform.

**BEN FOUNTAIN ('80)** lives in Dallas. His story “Near-Extinct Birds of the Central Cordillera” will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Zoetrope: All Story*. He also wrote a story titled “Reve Haitien” for the Jan. 2000 issue of *Harper’s* that is included as part of the O.Henry Awards Prize Stories for 2001.

**JOY FOWLER ('73)** completed a Ph.D. in Creative Writing from The Union Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, and is currently seeking a publisher for her historical young adult novel.

**JEANNE FUGATE ('97)** graduated from NYU School of Law and began associate work at Arnold & Porter this fall. She is planning a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Sweet of the southern district of New York.

**SHANA L. FULTON ('98)** graduated from Columbia University School of Law and works as a full-time associate at the law firm of Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C. Her chapter “Religious Freedom in Prison” appeared in *A Jailhouse Lawyer’s Manual*, 5th ed. (*Columbia Human Rights Law Review*). She also served as Articles Editor for the *Review*.

**SHIRLIEY FUNG ('94)** has interned at *Washingtonian Magazine* in D.C., held a Fulbright for journalism in Taiwan, and, while writing for *Women’s Wear Daily*, had a reading from her fiction in Brooklyn.

**CHRIS FURR ('77)** is principal at a middle school in Wilmington, NC.

**STERLING GARMON ('01)** completed a summer fellowship at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and is now studying physics at the University of Texas.
JO ANN GARNER-MCGRAW ('82) completed a Ph.D. in psychology and owns a private practice at Emerald Isle, NC. She continues to write for the mental health exploration of her child clients, and for her two foster daughters.

MEL GILLES ('95) serves on youth-related non-profit boards and works part-time waiting tables and studying desert revegetation. She is married to Mathew Gross ('93) and recently began work on a novel.

KATE GOLDSTEIN ('01) is working on her MA/Ph.D. in English at the University of Indiana in Bloomington.

JIM GREENHILL ('88) works full-time on his non-fiction book, Someone Has to Die Tonight. A two-hour “Dateline NBC” special on the circumstances surrounding his book will air this fall.

MATHEW GROSS ('93) is editing an anthology, The Glen Canyon Reader, that will be published by the University of Arizona Press in Spring 2003. He and his wife live in Moab, Utah.

MONICA HANCOCK ('90) was promoted to Multimedia Specialist for ACN.

LAURA HARRIS ('98) works as a freelance writer and website content writer for Conscious Singles, Monterrey Jet Center, and Universal Internet. Her articles have appeared in American Profile magazine and the San Francisco Chronicle.

CULLEY HOLDERFIELD ('96) works for Self-Help Credit Union and recently completed two works for the W. Asheville History Project. His poem “I Will Read Mountains” appeared in Earth & Soul: An Anthology of North Carolina Poets. He is shopping a completed manuscript to agents and publishers, and working on another novel.

PETER JAY INGRAO ('96) teaches English in conjunction with earning his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Dallas. His work has appeared in Sojourn and Poetry Now.

SARA ANDREWS JOHNSTON ('91 Ph.D.) teaches drama, introduction to literature, and freshman writing at N.C. State. Her poem “On Visiting the Dupont Estate, Longwood Gardens” appeared in the Carolina Quarterly (summer 2000). The Quarterly will also publish her next poems, “On Maryland Highway 13 Again” and “For my Piano Teacher.”

MITTIE JONES ('98) received a two-year fellowship to study at the University of Texas at Austin.

SETH KATZ ('84) edits the online resource “Hypertext and Hypermedia: A Select Bibliography.”

SUSAN B. KATZ ('71) had her publication Conversations with Screenwriters debut the week of December 3, 2000 at #3 on the L. A. Times Bestseller List.

TIMOTHY A. KEPEL ('78) has published short stories in El Malpensante and Glimmer Train, and received 2nd Place in Glimmer Train's fall competition.

J. MICHAEL KEY ('77) has taught for 24 years at Archdale-Trinity Middle School and was chosen “Teacher of the Year” in 2000. He recently published an article in Chicken Soup for the Sports Soul."

MOLLY MCNEILL KISER ('89) is a clinical social worker with Wake County Mental Health.

ASHLEY DIXON KNIGHT ('98) is Head Chef at The Summit School in Winston-Salem.

JOHNNY KNIGHT ('96) is establishing a business as a professional theatrical photographer and plans to return to acting in the future. His full-length play Extreme Union was workshopped by Chicago’s Cobalt Ensemble Theatre, and his short play
“Woody Goodface” was produced this summer by the StageWorks Company in Tampa, Florida.

DAVE KRINSKY (’85) is Co-Executive Producer of the television show “King of the Hill.”

MERYL KUZNETZOFF (’78) works as a real estate investor. Her son Menachem, 18, completed two years of post-high school rabbinical studies in London.

JENNIFER LAYTON (’91) is a copywriter and freelance writer for independent music websites. Her articles have appeared at Indie-Music.com and GoGirlsMusic.com. She publishes a weekly humor column at Jstreet-Humor.com.

ANGELA FAITH LEA (’01), a student in the University of Michigan MFA program, received the university’s Colby Fellowship that includes a full tuition waiver, stipend, and teaching position. She also received the Academy of American Poets’ Doris Smith Williams Prize and was nominated for the Ruth Lilly Fellowship.

JEANE MEEKINS LUCAS (’89) writes book reviews for The Independent and was recently appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor of English at Randolph-Macon College.

Her Husband Guy Lucas ’87 was recently named Editor of Newsbank, the shared content network for Media General’s newspapers, included the Winston-Salem Journal.

ARIEL LUFT (’00) began her training in acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in January 2001.

STEPHEN MARCH (’73) is Associate Professor at Elizabeth City State University. He recently released an original CD, “Blue Moon Diner,” and his story “Armadillo” was accepted for an upcoming issue of Carolina Quarterly.

ALANE SALIERNO MASON (’82), Senior Editor at Norton, published a translation of Conversations in Sicily with New Directions in January. She has also written essays for the Baltimore Sun, Boston Review, Hemingway Review, and Best Spiritual Writing 2001.

JONATHAN MCCALL (’95) works with data management in clinical cancer research for the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group at Duke University Medical Center. A freelance writer, he has written for The Urban Hiker, Symposium, and Spectator.

BETH B. MCCLURE (’90) has worked at the National Institute of Health since 1998 and recently gave birth to twins.

CHANDLER MCREE (’87) continues to teach in the Communications Department at Brevard Community College in Melbourne, Florida. She has published in the Driftwood anthology and in Florida Today, and received honorable mention for a story, “Gone Astray,” in the 2001 Writer’s Digest Short Fiction Contest.

MICHAEL MCWILLIAMS (’97) is a medical student at Harvard and published several poems in White Noise.

SHERYL MEBANE (’98) is in her fourth year of Ph.D. studies in Physical Chemistry at Berkeley. Her first novel, Lady Bird, will be published in the spring.

PHILIP MEMMER (’93) lives in Deansboro, NY with his wife Michelle ’93. He is Director of the Downtown Writer’s Center, the Syracuse Chapter of the YMCA National Writer’s Voice. His poems have appeared in Poetry Northwest, Connecticut Review, Calapooya, and Southern Poetry Review, and recently Picadilly Press published a chapbook of his poems, Apartment.

MELISSA KAYE MILIOS (’98) is senior producer with Cox Interactive Media in San Antonio, Texas.

THERESA W. MILLER (’78) is as a part-time court reporter and
does community service work in Greensboro. She married Ron Miller ('79) and has three children: Dan, 17; Mary Grace, 12; and Virginia, 9. Her poem “Running with Helena” was published in Crossing Boundaries, An International Anthology of Women’s Experiences in Sports (1999).

KATY MUNGER ('79) published her ninth mystery, Better Off Dead (Harper/Morrow/Avon). Four of her novels appeared under the pen name Gallagher Gray. She also writes a mystery review column for The Washington Post and will publish a short story in an upcoming Tart Noir anthology, to be published in the United Kingdom and USA (2002).

DONALD MUNRO ('82) is a partner with Eagle & Dominion in San Francisco, and writes for the company newsletter. He has two children: Gigi, 2, and Amelia, 1.

JULIE ABBOT MURPHY ('80) lives in McLean, Virginia, where she is raising her three children.

EMILY NELSON ('01) started her first year at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

KIM O’CONNOR ('01) won the Frances Phillips Travel Scholarship to travel to Spain, France, Greece and Italy from August to October 2001. She received an honorable mention for the Academy of American Poets’ Doris Smith Williams Prize and will enter the UNC School of Education MAT program in 2002.

JENNY OFFILL ('90) teaches creative writing in Yale’s summer program and lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her book Last Things appeared in paperback in April 2000, and she gave a Second Sunday Reading at UNC in Feb. 2001.

TRINA OZER ('00) was a finalist in the recent Glimmer Train fiction contest.

MICHAEL PARKER ('84) is Associate Professor in the Creative Writing Program at UNC Greensboro. He has published a novel, Towns Without Rivers (William Morrow, 2001), as well as stories in Five Points, Idaho Review, and other journals.

MEAGAN PATTERSON ('01) won Second Place in East Carolina University’s statewide Shannon Meek poetry contest with her poem “Learning to Swim.”

ANNA PEEPERS ('97) works as a wardrobe assistant with Disney’s theatrical production of The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre in London. She is married to Lincoln Hudson, an actor and featured ensemble member of the cast of My Fair Lady, playing in Drury Lane in London.

HOLLY PHILLIPS ('99) works for Penguin Books in London. She acts as “Peter Rabbit’s Agent” and sends him on guest appearances around the world.

AIMEE POPP ('95) graduated from Ohio State University College of Medicine and began a Pathology residency at Emory University.

ROBERT G. “JERRY” QUALLS ('76) is Associate Professor at the University of Nevada. His poem “Holding Patterns” was published in Brushfire and he also wrote a comparison of the behavior of soluble and inorganic nutrients for Forest Ecology and Management.

R. ALEK RAWKIN ('77) proudly sent his second son Hunter to join UNC’s freshman class this fall.

EMILY RAWLING ('00) was accepted into the MFA program in Children’s Literature at the University of Vermont.

KATHRYN REKLIS ('01) won Third Place in East Carolina University’s statewide Shannon Meek poetry contest with her poem “On Understanding Music.” She will work throughout the remainder of the school year as the N.C. High
School liaison at the Morehead Foundation.

LINDA ROBERTSON ('83) is a sports columnist and Olympics writer at the Miami Herald, and a mother of three.

WARREN ROCHELLE ('77) is Assistant Professor at Mary Washington College. His recent publications include Communities of the Heart: The Rhetoric of Myth in the Fiction of Ursula K. LeGuin (Liverpool Univ. 2001) and The Wild Boy (Golden Gryphon, 2001). One of his poems will appear in the 2001 Crucible.

CYNTHIA W. SATTEFIELD ('90) is Director at the Historica Stagville Foundation.

SHERRY SHAW ('92) lives in Gastonia, NC and works as Executive Director of a non-profit community-building organization. She has received writing grants from the NC Arts Council and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Arts Council, and spent a weekend at Southern Pines’ Weymouth House with other recipients, including Fred Chappell.

MEG SHEEHAN ('98) works with Sony as an assistant to Film Director Dennis Dugan.

JANE R. SHIPPEN ('94) will have a story published in New Stories of the South 2001, edited by Shannon Ravenal.

JULIA RIDLEY SMITH ('94) won an Emerging Artist grant from the Durham Arts Council to do research for her new novel.

ANDREW W. SNEE ('91) is Assistant Editor at The Sun magazine. His son David Sullivan was born in April.

SUZANNE YELVERTON STROUP ('91) married Keegan F. Stroup '91 and has two children, Kiernan, 4, and Grace Tierney, 2.

JOY SURLES ('01) is working on an MFA in Creative Writing and MA in English at Long Island University’s Brooklyn campus.

MARK SUTTON ('96) is working on a Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. He teaches writing classes and is Assistant Director for the Writing Studio. He published four entries in the Robert Frost Encyclopedia (Greenwood, 2000) and an essay in the SC Writer’s Workshop Newsletter The Quill.

LEIGHANN SCROGGINS SWANSON ('98) married Charles Swanson ('98) in June. She serves as Marketing and Communications Specialist for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce’s seven major publications and website. She also sells advertising in their monthly tabloid publication and coordinates the annual fund-raising campaign.

TIM TARKINGTON ('72) is Assistant Professor of Humanities at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta.

ADAM TARLETON ('01) won First Place in East Carolina University’s statewide Shannon Meek poetry contest with his poem, “Drying Out.” He is pursuing an MFA at UNC Greensboro.

LILY THAYER ('98) is the only writer for a large (1,000-person) architecture and design firm in Baltimore. She also reviews books regularly for the city paper.

MICHELE L. VAZQUEZ ('97) is completing an MFA in Acting at the University of San Diego and The Old Globe Theatre. She is working on a one-woman show for performance.

MATTHEW VOLLMER ('96) published in the spring '01 issue of Paris Review: “Oh Land of National Paradise, How Glorious are thy Bounties.”

JACK R. “JACKSON” WHEELER ('75) is a manager of social workers for Tri-Counties Regional Center. She co-authored an essay with Margaret Rabb for Carolyn
Kizer: Perspectives on Her Life and Work (CavenKerry, 2001). Her poem “Emmaus” was selected for the Poetry in the Windows Project” by the Arroyo Seco Arts Foundation. She has published in Rivertalk, Cider Press Review, Carolina Quarterly, and Art Life.

FRED WHERRY ('96) completed a Masters degree in Public Affairs at Princeton and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Sociology. He teaches a course on microcredit in developing countries for the Woodrow Wilson School, and will soon conduct research in Costa Rica and Thailand.

ROSS WHITE ('97) continues his work with LEARN North Carolina at the NC Teachers’ Network.

CHRISTINE WILLIAMS ('94) works with the Orange County (NC) Rape Crisis Center.

KRISTEN ANNE WILLIAMS ('01) received a full fellowship to pursue an MFA in Poetry at the University of California at Irvine. She was one of 45 finalists out of 1200 entries in the National Writer’s Union Poetry Competition.

DAWN WILSON ('93) has published a young adult novel, Saint Jude, with Tudor Publishers in Greensboro, N.C.

HEATHER WILSON ('98) was promoted to Assistant Manuscript Editor at Houghton Mifflin.

RENEE C. WOLCOTT ('95) was promoted to Editor of the NC State alumni magazine, for which she writes numerous features and short articles.

ERIN WUNKER ('01) is a graduate student at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and was published in the spring 2001 issue of Cellar Door.

ANDREA “ANDY” YOUNG ('94) teaches creative writing in New Orleans at the Center for Creative Arts and the School for the Imagination. She received a $5,000 fellowship from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and her poetry has appeared in Exquisite Corpse, Eternal Anthology, and a series of jewelry by Jeanine Payer.

JENNIFER YOUNG ('98) is pursuing her M. A. in the Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing at Cardiff University.

NEW PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CHILDREN’S LITERATURE GENRE

The first prizes for writing children’s picture books and young adult fiction have been established by children’s book author and Chapel Hill resident William H. Hooks! This will be an annual competition open to UNC Chapel Hill undergrads. First awards will be made in 2002.

Bill Hooks was born on the family tobacco plantation near Whiteville, NC where he grew up with a large extended family. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill where he received a BA in Dramatic Arts and an MA in History. Later he studied at the American Theatre Wing in New York City where he lived for most of his adult life. He enjoyed working as a dancer and choreographer for many years and served as Director of Publications for Bank Street College of Education, an experimental college where he supervised the preparation of school and trade books for children. He began writing for children as a second career and to date has published 50 children’s books. Today he lives in Chapel Hill where he shares his house with a cat named Valentine.
CREATIVE WRITING GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

- Marianne Gingher

This past July, I had the privilege and tremendous fun of traveling to Los Angeles on University business. A group of UNC alumni working in the film and television industry intend to help establish a screenwriting program at UNC in the near future. As Director of Creative Writing, I was invited to be part of a committee to study successful film and screenwriting programs around the country, assess UNC’s potential for drawing talented, interested students for such a program, and to help design a curriculum. Michael Piller (producer and writer for the successful Star Trek television series, among his many credits) studied creative writing with Doris Betts. Piller, a long-time fan of UNC’s creative writing program, was eager for our input and involvement in helping to launch a screenwriting program at Carolina.

While in L.A., I toured the UCLA film school, ate lunch in the Shirley Temple room at the Fox Studio lot, enjoyed the company of a number of former UNC grads who are working (or have worked) successfully in the biz, including Meg Sheehan ’98 who was working as assistant to the director of “Happy Gilmore,” Taylor Ball ’98, former employee in special effects who now attends law school at UCLA, Dave Krinsky and John Altshuler who write for “King of the Kill,” Ray Allen ’97 who works for Paramount. A big highlight was meeting Jeffrey Hayden, a UNC alum, who produced and directed and wrote “Leave it to Beaver” and “The Andy Griffith Show” - two of the most golden shows in television history. Jeffrey Hayden is married to screen icon Eva Marie Saint, and, yes she is more beautiful than ever, and nicer in person than you could ever imagine.

More news will be forthcoming in the next Chapter & Verse concerning our progress in making the dream of a screenwriting program at UNC a reality. This is an interdisciplinary project with representatives from Communications Studies, Performance and Dramatic Arts, and Creative Writing serving on the committee.

GLOSSALALIA REDUX

Many of you may recall taking a course with Daphne Athas in the 1970’s and early 1980’s called “Stylistics” or, later, “Glossolalia,” which culminated in a performance of student work before a live audience each semester. The novelty and popularity of the course was immense. Students examined the grammar, structure, and musicality of language. They practiced parody, wordplay, verb and sentence conjugations, nonsense, all sorts of trickery and magic with language. Dave Krinsky, who writes and produces the popular TV animation “King of the Hill” recently remarked that Athas’s course taught him more about writing than any class he took at UNC. Fans of “Stylistics” (and Professor Athas) will be pleased to know that the course was resurrected this fall, taught by Daphne Athas and directed by Matt Spangler, a graduate student in Communication Studies. The students performed their show, “Nuclear Christmas and a Happy New Year,” before a packed and delighted audience in Greenlaw on December 6th, 2001. Rave reviews have guaranteed that the course will be offered again next fall.
“Good fiction...does not turn away. Good writers cultivate the habit of, to use Toni Morrison’s word, unblinkingness. Good writers write stories that don’t simply reflect something, they frame a character or situation so that we see not a portrait of a shivering and frightened victim of some unnameable wrong, or a gesture in the general direction of sadness, but something particular about this fear, this passivity, this sadness. At their best, stories give us a way to see into, to infer consequences, to perceive a pattern in what has just been lived through. At their best, stories trace in heightened and specific detail the entanglements of character and situation and contribute valuable new words with which to name the varieties of human response.”

- Pam Durban, Doris Betts Professor