Simpson Accepts CW Directorship

Greenlaw Hall (Fall 2002) – Veteran Carolina teacher Bland Simpson has been newly appointed as Director of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Creative Writing Program, the fifth director since Jessie Rehder formally instituted the program in 1947. Mr. Simpson is author of the books Heart of the Country, The Great Dismal, The Mystery of Beautiful Nell Cropsey, Into the Sound Country, and the just-published non-fiction novel Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals: The Mystery of the Carroll A. Deering. As a member of the Red Clay Ramblers, he has toured North America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and has collaborated on such musicals as Diamond Studs, Kudzu, King Mackerel, and the Tony Award-winning Broadway and international hit Fool Moon.

In an exclusive interview with Chapter & Verse, Simpson took stock of the program, its current situation and needs, and likely developments in its operation and offerings in the near future.

C&V: Could you give us the sense of what a typical day of leadership in the Creative Writing Program involves?
Simpson: Let’s take today. Conferred with former director Gingher and program assistant Lisa Foley-Pellicani about where registration stands here at the opening of the term, went to the Chair’s Administrative Board meeting, introduced our new Thomas Wolfe Scholar to University leaders at the newly renovated House Undergrad Library opening. Now it’s back to registration and correspondence. I expect the days this fall to be quite different one from the next, particularly with a new book coming out, with a number of readings to give across the state, in addition to this being my first semester as director.
C&V: You graduated from UNC in 1910 – just kidding! You did not take creative writing courses when you were here. Why not?
Simpson: I was so impressed by the work of my friends, like Jim Wann and John Foley, who were taking those courses that I was, frankly, intimidated. The impulse that might have led me into those classes steered me towards the Daily Tar Heel where I was night editor and wrote columns. I wish I’d been a little bolder and gotten into classes with Doris Betts and Daphne Athas and Max Steele.
C&V: You’ve got a new book just out and you’re still visibly involved with the Red Clay Ramblers. You planned and chaired the N.C. Writer’s Conference in Elizabeth City this summer. How do you manage?
Simpson: One thing at a time – plus I get a lot of help from my wife Ann and from my colleagues here in the writing program and from my fellow Ramblers.
C&V: What are some of your goals for the Creative Writing Program?
Simpson: As nearly as possible, to mirror the success of past directors, specifically the success the program has enjoyed under Marianne Gingher’s leadership. We have more interest on the part of students, more visibility, more appreciation from colleagues and administrators around campus and from other campuses than ever before.
C&V: What do you think is the Program’s most pressing need?
Simpson: We still need a formal intern program, but most pressing is the need to continue to offer a minor to as many undergraduates as is reasonably possible, without over-extending the resources – human and otherwise – of our small, exceptionally well-focused program.
C&V: What sorts of new courses do you envision?
Simpson: Well, Marianne – who continues to work on the Writing for Stage and Screen curriculum that’s developing – has proposed a course in film adaptation of fiction. We want to keep offering the reinvigorated Stylistics course, originated by Daphne Athas in the 1970s – it’s gotten terrific response from students and our colleagues in Dramatic Arts and Communication Studies. We’ve been offering a Children’s Literature course and we could certainly introduce another course in Young Adult writing. There may be the possibility of a non-fiction sequence, following the format of the poetry and fiction sequences. A few years ago, I did an independent study course in lyrics – this is a specialty we might someday develop into a writing seminar.
C&V: Any plans for UNC to develop an MFA Program in creative writing?
Simpson: With five effective graduate programs – two within an hour of Greenlaw Hall – currently offered in this state alone there’s simply no need. We have a wonderful, full-time assignment on our hands – trying to be the best undergraduate creative writing program in the country.
Marianne Ginger's Last Report as Director

Creative Writing at Carolina 2001-2002

Our year normally begins in mid-August, with the return of students, the bustle of registration and commencement of classes. Last year’s orientation, however, was jubilantly enhanced by the celebration in September of the 10th anniversary of Second Sunday Readings. A couple of freshmen from my Honors Fiction class attended out of curiosity and got an eyeful of truth about the phrase Doris Betts famously remarked: “If you throw a rock in Chapel Hill, you’ll hit a writer.” The event was held at the Carolina Inn and hosted by Michael McFee. All 112 previous readers in the series were invited back to campus to be recognized for their contributions to contemporary North Carolina literature, and to hear Doris Betts read from her new short fiction. The conviviality shared by the many writers in attendance had the fond atmosphere of a reunion. The reading series, sponsored by the Creative Writing Program, UNC Library’s North Carolina Collection, and the North Caroliniana Society, was established and moderated for a number of years by Doris Betts prior to Michael McFee’s able leadership. Last year’s series brought to campus a number of outstanding emerging and established literary voices, including novelists David Payne, Pamela Duncan, Susan Dodd, Tommy Hays, Susan Kelly, and poets David Brendan Hopes, John Balaban, Joseph Bathanti, and Margaret Rabb.

Last year was our first year making do without Doris Betts, who retired July 2001. Of course we miss her mightily! But hiring Pam Durban as our first Doris Betts Distinguished Professor helped to soften the blow. In October a party was given in honor of Doris at Fearrington, hosted by Keebe Fitch, bookseller extraordinaire and owner of McIntyre’s Books, the Creative Writing Program and the Department of English. Ben Jones III (’50), our very lively patron saint, was in attendance, not only enjoying the company of Doris, her friends and colleagues and former students, but basking in the knowledge that through his visionary endowment of the first chaired professorship in Creative Writing, he eased our transition from working alongside Doris to accepting her retirement.

Thanks to a remarkable gift made by Frank Borden Hanes (’42), Bland Simpson and I undertook the co-directorship of the newly established Thomas Wolfe Scholarship, which seeks to bring a young writer of exceptional talent, focus, and potential to UNC on full scholarship for four years. During the summer and early fall, Bland and I worked to create guidelines for the scholarship applicants, helped design a web site, and publicized this unique opportunity via mailings to high school guidance counselors and English teachers nationwide. In spite of 9-11 and mail slowed down by the anthrax scare (which prompted us to extend the deadline), we received about 150 applications. Mr. Hanes’s charge was to find the best writer we could find.

Our preliminary reading committee was composed of three fearless readers, Amy Weldon (MA ’99), Tara Powell (’97, MA ’99) and Rebecca Greene (’96), all of whom were knowledgeable about the Creative Writing Program’s high standards, and two of whom had, several years back, completed our program, graduating with Honors. They selected twenty semi-finalists from which our Advisory Board culled six bright and worthy young writers to bring to campus for further interviews. Two students were North Carolinians and four from out of state, as far-flung as California. Our Advisory Board consisted of a panel of writers: poet Michael McFee, non-fiction writer Jan DeBlieu (from Manteo), novelist David Payne (from Hillsborough), Bland and me... Happily we reached a unanimous vote to award the first Thomas Wolfe Scholarship to Caitlin Doyle, a poet and fiction writer from East Hampton, New York. Caitlin joined us in August, entering UNC as an already distinguished freshman.

Other good news I’d like to share concerns enhanced or continuing support by donors to funds they originally created. Alex Rankin (’77) of Goshen, KY, who studied poetry with Jim Seay and established the Rankin Faculty Support Fund a few years ago with the initial pledge of $100,000, recently doubled his commitment. He and his wife Sarah raise thoroughbred horses. Their sons, Taylor and Hunter, are students at UNC. Mr. Rankin’s extraordinary largesse makes possible a number of creative writing projects and programs, and our gratitude is immense. This year the Rankin Faculty Support Fund is helping bring to campus the legendary writer, Paris Review editorial board member, and former Director of this Creative Writing Program, Max Steele, for a series of lectures on the short story. Allen and Musette Morgan, from Memphis, who, in 1994, established the Morgan Writer-in-Residence series, renewed their pledge to keep the series going for another five years. This is one of our favorite weeks in the academic calendar, spangled with literary enrichment as well as a bit of glamour. Writers with prominent reputations are brought to campus for weeklong festivities, panels, receptions, readings, and working with students in small classroom settings. To date we have enjoyed the stellar company of Shelby Foote, Beth Henley, Annie Dillard, Richard Ford, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Richard Wilbur, Russell Banks, John Edgar Wideman, and last spring, Tobias Wolff. Mr. Wolff, a master teacher in addition to being the author of highly acclaimed fiction and memoirs (This Boy’s Life, The Barracks Thief, Pharoah’s Army, The Night in Question, to name a few of his books), enthralled students and faculty alike with his astute and lucid performances both in the classroom and the lecture hall.
Blanche Britt Armfield (MA, ’28) founded the Creative Writing Program’s successful Blanche Britt Armfield Poetry Reading Series in 1989. Over the years, Ms. Armfield continued to contribute to her original fund and attended a number of the readings until her health began to fail. The fund allows us to bring distinguished poets to campus for readings and interaction with our writing students. Ms. Armfield passed away in the summer of 2000. Creative Writing was notified that her estate had bequeathed a magnificent endowment that will secure the future of this reading series in perpetuity and enhance our poetry program for years to come. We who teach on the fiction side of things are not jealous in the least—haha! Ms. Armfield’s explicit mandate was that we spend the Armfield fund exclusively to champion the cause of poetry on this campus, and it is our determined mission to safeguard that aim. A poetry prize in her name was established last year. This year’s Armfield Poet was Andrew Hudgins. The enthusiastic audience was packed. Joining us for the reading were Blanche’s niece, Ponza Vaughan, and her husband, Bob.

In addition to visits by Tobias Wolff and Andrew Hudgins, novelist Larry Brown lectured and met with students in the fall. Brown was last year’s recipient of the Thomas Wolfe Award for Literature, sponsored by the Thomas Wolfe Society. The previous recipient was Tom Wolfe. In the fall of 2002, prize-winning short story writer, novelist and memoirist Elizabeth Spencer is being honored with the Wolfe Award and giving a public lecture. The first weekend in April 2002, UNC, Duke, and NCSU libraries hosted the second North Carolina Literary Festival on our campus. All members of the Creative Writing faculty were involved as panelists or speakers. Both the campus community and the general public were invited to hear and meet some of the best-known writers from our region and elsewhere, including Fred Chappell, Allan Gurganus, Lee Smith, Lucille Clifton, Orson Scott Card, and Julia Alvarez. The Creative Writing Program continues to serve between 250 and 300 students any given semester and to enhance courses offered with visiting faculty. This past year our second Kenan Visiting Writer, June Spence, taught two introductory fiction classes. June is the author of the short story collection Missing Women and the forthcoming novel Change Baby. She taught previously at Vanderbilt. Regular adjuncts Mike Chitwood, Sarah Dessen, Peggy Rabb, Daphne Athas, and Lawrence Naumoff returned to teach classes in poetry and fiction. We are indebted to our part-time faculty for their loyalty and inspired teaching. Year after year they refresh the Writing Program and help us expand both our curriculum and our imaginations. For example, had we not been able to hire an adjunct to teach a fiction course originally assigned to me, I would not have been able to develop a course in writing personal narrative this spring—or talk Daphne Athas into resurrecting her gloriously famous course from yesteryear, “Stylistics.” We certainly want to provide students with core courses in poetry and fiction, but other genres as well as special topics courses have tremendous appeal, both for faculty who might teach them and students who take them. “Stylistics” (formally known as “Glossolalia,” the way Daphne teaches it) has such interdisciplinary range that it has been recommended for students studying screenwriting and drama. In an effort to learn how to teach the course (I can best describe it as a magical mystery tour of language arts) I apprenticed myself to Daphne last spring, and we will team-teach the course again this fall.

Thanks to the generosity of James Kenan III, we’ve been able to bring to campus our third Kenan Visiting Writer—and our second poet in the series—Daniel Anderson. Daniel has been an Assistant Visiting Professor at Sewanee for the last few years. He is the author of a highly praised and prize-winning book of poems, January Rain, and has another book on the way. His poems have been anthologized in The Best American Poetry series and read aloud on NPR by Garrison Keillor.

I can’t stress enough how valuable donations are, both large and small, to our Program. Contributions from donors and friends not only support the day-to-day effort but the long-term morale of faculty and students alike. Thanks to all who have supported Creative Writing through the years.

Frank Hanes, in establishing the Wolfe Scholarship endowment, is our newest Super Hero. Special gratitude is always due to Ben Jones whose love of literature and zest for spreading that love make him a kindred spirit for life. Ben’s leadership in our campaign to raise money for the Betts Distinguished Professorship has produced Pam Durban. Now that it’s a done deal, it seems as if he waved a magic wand. Continued thanks to Alex Rankin for his abundant loyalty and handsome gift and to Charles B. Collins of Rockingham, NC, whose newly re-named Jada Cheyenne Collins Scholarship will offer financial assistance of $1,500 to a deserving creative writing minor this next year. Mary Friday (’78) who endowed the Willie lavonsa Moore Prize in Non-Fiction supplies us with one of the richest student prizes on campus. Like Santa’s helpers, Ben and Anne Bolch regularly send us a wonderful check at Christmas.

William H. Hooks’ gift established the Hooks prizes in children’s writing. Mr. Hooks (who attended the year-end Honors awards ceremony and awarded the Hooks prizes himself) had a genuine twinkle in his eye. He seemed to be taking as much delight in presenting the awards as the students took in receiving them. The author of more than fifty books himself (“I got a late start as a writer and had to make up for lost time,” he told me, laughing), Hooks plans to renew the prizes annually.

2002 Chapter & Verse 3
Our latest contribution arrived out of the blue last week from Ellen Ball, the mother of one of our poetry students, Dorothy Ball, who simply wrote that she was making a contribution to Creative Writing “in honor of my daughter.” What a lovely vote of confidence in our Program.

We invite contributions from enthusiastic alumni and friends to the Doris Betts/Jessie Rehder Creative Writing Fund. It appears that the next few years will be fiscally tough on the University, and we will be encouraged to seek private support if we want to maintain the high standards we’ve achieved. The goal of the Betts/Rehder fund is to attract financial support for Creative Writing that has a flexible purpose. The continued vitality of the Program depends on our continued innovations and enhancements. 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. For detailed news of CW alumni, readers may request copies of our newsletter, Chapter & Verse, published during the fall.

And now, Patient Reader, I must take my leave. I’ve proudly served as Director, driver and hood ornament, of this Dream Machine we call the Creative Writing Program for five years, but I’m moving over to the passenger seat. Effective July 1, my colleague Bland Simpson took the wheel. I can’t think of a person on this campus who is better qualified to run this Program. During my stint as Director, if it hadn’t been for Bland’s good-humored support and assistance and advice on a daily basis, I might have perished in all the paperwork. It certainly would have been a bumpy ride. But it’s been nearly a breeze because I’ve been surrounded by a genuinely humane, well-intentioned, purposeful, energetic, funny, and loyal bunch of writers. It sounds like an impossible dream, right? But it’s our unkept secret around Greenlaw, that the writing staff is a mutual admiration society. I feel as if I’ve served this Program during its Golden Age. During my term I’ve had wonderful English Department chairs (Laurence Avery, Darryl Gless, Bill Andrews, and James Thompson) who accorded our Program respect and autonomy. Each of these chairmen worked hard to champion the Program and help establish it inarguably as “the jewel in the crown of the English Department.”

This is not goodbye. I’m still here. They’ll have to carry me out before I’ll leave this world of wonders. I feel privileged every day I walk across the campus and recognize where I’m headed: to the best job in the world, working with the best students in the world. Leaving the Directorship means I’ll have more time for my students, my writing. I remember what Max Steele said to me when he first hired me to teach at UNC. He said, “We’re hiring you to teach, but we’re also hiring you to write.” It’s high time I got back to basics. Thanks to everybody who has helped me to do this job with such joy.

Happy Trails!

Marianne Gingher
Director 1997—2002

Welcome
Creative Writing’s
New Assistant!

Lisa Foley-Pellicani

Please join us in welcoming Lisa Foley-Pellicani to the Creative Writing team! Lisa is our new Program Assistant, supporting CW faculty & students in all their endeavors, including the new Thomas Wolfe Scholarship, registration, fundraising activities, and production of this newsletter. Originally from Maine, Lisa attended St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, traveled in Ireland, and finished her undergraduate degree with a BA in English from the University of Maine at Orono. After a few nomadic years of seasonal waitressing in Maine and on the Gulf Coast of Florida, with some domestic travel in between, Lisa settled in Carrboro, NC in 1993. Her years of experience at UNC-Chapel Hill, especially at the University Registrar's Office, and most recently at the School of Social Work, with the Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program, will definitely be a boon to the Program. Welcome, Lisa!

In brief . . .

2002-2003 Events:

Oct. 3 - Elizabeth Spencer - Thomas Wolfe Award ceremony & lecture - 7:30 p.m. Hanes Art Auditorium

Oct. 8 - Danny Anderson - Kenan Visiting Writer Reading - 3:30 p.m. Donovan Lounge, Greenlaw Hall

Nov. 14 - Michael Collier - Fall Armfield Reading

March 19 - Calvin Trillin - Morgan Writer Reading - 7:30 p.m. 11f Carroll Hall

March 27 - Gail Mazur - Spring Armfield Reading
2002 Honors and Awards

We graduated 18 Honors students this past spring. Those students included, in fiction, John Cartwright (who worked at UNC Press over the summer), Marion Crotty (who will attend Arizona State to work on her MFA degree), Wendy Spitzer (who is working as an administrative assistant at the North Carolina Writers’ Network), Amanda Pitts, Camille Simpson, and Emily Jacobs (who plan to move to NYC and look for writing-related work), Jessie Tucker (who is working as a newsletter editor for the Winston-Salem Journal), James Russ (who will be working for Penguin/Putnam Publishers in NYC), Mark Schueler (who plans to combine managing an Elmo’s Diner and writing), Brian Knight, Caroline Waddell, and Laura Ivey (off to Africa for the summer to do humanitarian work). Poetry Honors graduates are Henry Kearney, Margaret Kopp (who will be teaching 7th and 8th graders at St. Catherine’s School in Richmond), Sara Nofsinger (who will be traveling in Spain on a Francis L. Phillips Travel Scholarship) and Joanna Pearson (who will be studying at University College, Dublin, Ireland, on a Mitchell Scholarship). Bravo and congratulations to these uniquely talented and adventurous graduates!

The Annual Honors Reception on the last day of classes is one of the highlights of the academic year. Our 2002 reception was held May 1st in Wilson Library amidst an exhibit honoring National Book Award winner and Carolina alumnus Walker Percy (39).

From left, Elizabeth Kerr, Marianne Gingher, Jeremy Pomeroy, and Jules Norwood.

BLANCHE ARMFIELD POETRY PRIZE:

Charles Battle
Wayla Chambo

WILLIAM HOOKS AWARD FOR CHILDREN’S LITERATURE:

Best Young Adult Chapter:
Laura Fine

Best Picture Book:
Katharine Dale

ROBERT B. HOUSE AWARD IN POETRY:

Joanna Pearson

WILLIE LAVONSA MOORE PRIZE, Creative Non-Fiction:

First Place: Thomas Jarvis
Second Place: Elizabeth Kerr
Third Place: Coleman Herbert

LOUIS D. RUBIN PRIZE IN FICTION:

Wendy Spitzer

MAX STEELE AWARD IN FICTION:

Jennifer Evans

DORIS SMITH WILLIAMS PRIZE/ ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS:

Sara Nofsinger

GEORGE B. WYNNE AWARD FOR FICTION:

Brent Winter
Guney Acipayamli
Caitlin Doyle Wins UNC's first Thomas Wolfe Scholarship

CHAPEL HILL -- Caitlin Doyle, 20, of East Hampton, N.Y., has been awarded the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s first Thomas Wolfe Scholarship in creative writing. She entered UNC in August.

The scholarship honors acclaimed author Thomas Wolfe, who graduated from UNC in 1920 and attained international prominence upon publication of his novel Look Homeward, Angel in 1929. Frank Borden Hanes, Sr. of Winston-Salem, a novelist, poet, retired journalist and 1942 Carolina graduate, contributed $2 million to establish the scholarship. Hanes, who founded UNC’s Arts and Sciences Foundation in 1975, has long supported faculty and programs in the literary arts.

Administered by the university’s creative writing program, the scholarship offers full four-year financial support to one incoming freshman annually beginning this fall. It seeks to reward students with exceptionally focused literary ability and promise; artistic merit is the chief selection criterion.

"The selection committee unanimously recognized Caitlin’s gift on the page," said Marianne Gingher, assistant professor of English, co-director of the scholarship. "Once we met her in person, we were doubly impressed. Caitlin’s intellectual curiosity, the flexibility of her mind and her genuine zest for literature were immediately apparent."

Doyle, who was chosen from among approximately 150 applicants, has received numerous awards for her writing, including first prize for poetry in the Arts Recognition and Talent Search conducted by the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts; READ magazine’s Ann Arlys Bowler Poetry Prize; first and second place in the Connecticut Poetry Society’s Lynn Decaro Poetry Competition; and gold and silver prizes in the Connecticut Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Doyle’s work has been published in such magazines as the Connecticut River Review, Offerings, The Small Pond Magazine of Literature and the Long Island Quarterly. She has produced several short films that were shown in the Long Island Film Festival, the Hamptons International Film Festival and at Columbia University.

"I write because that’s when I am my most vivid self," said Doyle. "I write because it forces me to know my mind inside and out, to connect with what I know I feel. I write because it makes my brain hurt. I write because I honor writers and wish to move others as I have been moved."

-Ashley Atkinson, UNC News Services

Wolfe Scholarship enters Round Two!
The application window is from September 5th through November 5th, 2002.
We’ve updated the website with a FAQ. http://english.unc.edu/creative/tws

Danny Anderson - Kenan Visiting Writer 2002-2003

Daniel Anderson was born on December 19th, 1964 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He grew up in suburban Cincinnati and attended the University of Cincinnati where he earned his bachelor's degree in English literature. As an undergraduate, he studied with, among other poets, Andrew Hudgins. When he completed the work for his degree in December of 1987, at Hudgins's suggestion he applied to the Writing Seminars of The Johns Hopkins University. In February of 1988 he was accepted in the Writing Seminars as a member of a class of eight poets. He attended Hopkins on a full-tuition scholarship and teaching fellowship. In addition to studying with Wyatt Prunty and Charles Martin, he took classes with Hugh Kenner and Peter Sacks. During that year he also met Howard Nemerov, John Hollander and Robert Pinsky when they paid visits to the workshops.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins in 1989 with a Masters, Anderson taught composition for a year as an adjunct instructor at Catonsville Community College. In June of 1990, he accepted a job offer for the following fall to teach English at Delbarton School in Morristown, New Jersey, where he would live for the next eight years. In 1992, he began to work as an administrative staff member for the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and since 1994 has taught for the Sewanee Young Writers' Conference.

Daniel Anderson's poems have appeared in Poetry, The New Republic, The Southern Review, Raritan, and Southwest Review. He was the recipient of a 1995 fellowship for poetry from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. His first collection of poems, January Rain, won the 1997 Nicholas Roerich prize and was published by Story Line Press. Prior to becoming the UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan Visiting Writer, he was a Tennessee Williams Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor at Sewanee.
The Wil Seabrook Band
CW alumnus Wil Seabrook has been busy! The Wil Seabrook Band toured all summer, and has a new album upcoming, with Maverick Records. [http://www.wilseabrook.com/](http://www.wilseabrook.com/)

Bramble Rose Blossoms
Raleigh singer-songwriter and CW alumna Tift Merritt celebrated her first national CD release -- Bramble Rose -- this summer with Nashville's Lost Highway label. In a July 17th interview on WUNC-FM's "State of Things," she credited the Creative Writing Program (where she studied with professors Betts, McFee, and Simpson) with helping her develop as a writer. For an independent study course in lyrics and narrative ballads, Simpson asked her to study different aspects of folk, country, ragtime, blues and bluegrass music, and required her to write songs in each genre, an experience that she says continues to influence her work today. Tift also appeared on the David Letterman Show, CBS-TV, on Friday, July 26th, and plays at Carolina on October 26th. [http://www.tiftmerritt.com/](http://www.tiftmerritt.com/)

... and TELEVISION

Krinsky, Altschuler to run King of the Hill
Veteran King of the Hill writers Dave Krinsky ('85) and John Altschuler ('85) are close to sealing a new 2½-year deal with 20th Century Fox TV to run the show and develop other projects. Krinsky and Altschuler, who have been with the comedy hit since the show's second season, will take over showrunner-exec producer duties beginning with King's eighth season. Due to the long lag time it takes to produce animated series, work will begin this November on King's eighth season, although it doesn't bow until fall 2003.

The duo had already been serving as de facto showrunners on King, alongside creator Greg Daniels, for much of the show's seventh season, which bows Sunday, Nov. 3 at 8:30 p.m.

King of the Hill co-creator/exec producer Greg Daniels said he and fellow creator Mike Judge were "thrilled" that Altschuler and Krinsky opted to stick with the series. "They're just great writers, and the staff loves working with them," Daniels told Daily Variety. "They've been here almost from the beginning, and they totally get the voice of the show. We're very excited."

Krinsky and Altschuler, who were classmates in UNC-Chapel Hill's Creative Writing Program, had mulled over other options before ultimately deciding to stay with King. "We wouldn't do it if we didn't think there was a lot of life left in the show," Krinsky said. "The staff is really talented. And we'll be getting a lot of attention this year because of the timeslot change. It seems like it would be a horrible time to walk away."

The partners said they were also looking forward to coming up with new concepts for future projects, which would most likely be live-action.

"Fox made it clear they want to be the home for us," Altschuler said. "For five years we've been keeping our mouth shut, so we're excited to start pushing these ideas." Altschuler also said their time on King of the Hill also made them "much better writers than we were five years ago. I don't think there's a better training ground for writers than King of the Hill. When you're out there and you're looking at other shows, you start realizing that King of the Hill is a precious resource and you just want to take care of it."

--Josef Adalian, Michael Schneider, Variety
Daphne Athas wrote a number of reviews for Book World, including one of Josephine Humphreys' No Where Else on Earth. She has given readings and lectures all over the state, and, last fall, reinstated her famous 47W Stylistics course, based on Glossolalia Grammar.

Michael Chitwood's new book, Gospel Road Going, is due out October 18. He has work forthcoming in TriQuarterly, Virginia Quarterly Review, Threepenny Review, Field and in the New Southern Review, and just finished editing the second issue of a new online magazine called The Nantahala Review, a project of the Appalachian Colleges Association.

Sarah Dessen's fifth novel, This Lullaby, was published in summer 2002. A movie adapted from her first two novels, That Summer and Someone Like You, starring Mandy Moore and Allison Janney, was filmed this summer in Canada, to be released in February, 2003. Someone Like You also received the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award and the Missouri Gateway Book Award.

Pam Durban has stories forthcoming or recently published in The Carolina Quarterly and Five Points. In addition, her story "Keep Talking," which appears in the latest issue of CQ, was read last year at Symphony Space in New York, as part of the "Selected Shorts" series which features readings of short stories by professional actors and actresses. That reading of the story has recently been chosen for the "Selected Shorts" radio series that's offered to PBS affiliates nationwide. An excerpt from her story "World of Women" was published in an anthology called The Good Parts: The Best Erotic Writing in Modern Fiction.


Robert Kirkpatrick conducted the fifth London Honors Seminar for 38 UNC students this summer, and was delighted that Max Steele joined the class in Paris for lectures on, and a walking tour of, literary neighborhoods in the Paris of the 1920's and the 1950's. A number of students responded in their journals with prose and poetry of a more finely tuned quality than usual, but it is too early to tell how many are planning to become expatriates in the manner of Gertrude Stein and Richard Wright. Max Steele's own manner remains, of course, inimitable. Kirkpatrick's Honors Creative Writing class this fall is an unusually energetic and promising group of first-year students, including Marianne Gingher's son Sam, Michael McFee's son Philip, and UNC's first Thomas Wolfe Scholar, Caitlin Doyle.

Ruth Moose recently published short stories in Southern Journal, North Carolina Literary Review, Creosote and Our State. She published poetry in Chronicles, Iris and Comstock Review. Moose taught workshops in the short story at a weeklong conference at Meredith, a weekend session at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, and a master class at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Murphy, NC. Selections from her work were performed by students in Communications 101, and a chapter on her work is included in a book on Southern women writers published by Odense Press in Denmark.

Michael McFee's sixth collection of poetry, Earthly, won the Roanoke-Chowan Prize for Poetry from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association last November, for the best book of poetry published by a North Carolinian in 2001. He was the featured author at the 21st annual Emory & Henry Literary Festival in Virginia, which focuses on contemporary Appalachian writers. Three papers (including one by UNC creative writing alumna Jane Rothrock Shippen), a public interview (conducted by Michael Chitwood of our faculty), and a public reading were presented over the two days of the festival, October 3rd and 4th. The proceedings will be published in a special issue of the Iron Mountain Review in 2003.
Lawrence Naumoff completed his sixth novel, currently titled *A Life in the Sandhills* or *A Southern Tragedy*. It is the story of the 1991 Hamlet, NC, chicken plant fire.

Margaret Rabb’s book of poems, *Granite Dives*, continues to garner rave reviews. A recent review in *Solo* praised her for creating a “unique style of poem...structured into clean tight forms that bring to mind the hard sharp edges of quartz.”

A poem by James Seay provided the title for a new anthology from publisher David Godine (Boston), *Where Books Fall Open: A Reader’s Anthology of Wit and Passion*. Contributors read from the anthology at the Donnell Library in New York.

Alan Shapiro’s new book, *Song and Dance*, was published in March by Houghton Mifflin; his translation of *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus is due out in January, 2003, from Oxford University Press. In April, 2002, he received a writer's award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Bland Simpson served as the 2002 Chair of the North Carolina Writers Conference, which met in Elizabeth City, NC, in July. His new non-fiction novel, *Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals*, is being published this fall by UNC Press. In late October-early November, his string band, the Red Clay Ramblers, premieres *Ramblin’ Suite* with the Atlanta Ballet, having previewed the work in Waynesville, NC, in September.

Max Steele Is Back!

Max Steele, former Director of UNC’s Creative Writing Program (1966-1988), is returning to campus this fall as a "Roving Lecturer." After giving an initial lecture to the faculty on September 3rd, Professor Steele has been meeting individual classes throughout the program and discussing "short short story" writing and editing.

Steele is the author of a novel, *Debby*, which was reprinted under the title *The Goblins Must Go Barefoot*, as well as three short story collections: *Where She Brushed Her Hair*, *The Cat and the Coffee Drinkers*, and *The Hat of My Mother*. His short fiction has appeared in numerous prestigious periodicals, including the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, *Harper’s*, *Mademoiselle*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Esquire*. The recipient of two O. Henry awards and numerous other prizes and honorary degrees, Steele continues to give lectures on the craft of short fiction all over the world. He is an editorial advisor for the *Paris Review* and continues to serve as an editor for *Story Magazine*. Recent work has appeared in the *Washington Post Magazine*. 

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The Carolina Quarterly

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- fiction
- essays
- interviews
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Chapter & Verse 9
Editor Alane Mason's *Words Without Borders*

Alane Salieano Mason ('86), a senior editor at W.W. Norton and a leader in the Creative Writing Program when she was a student here, has won NEA support for a visionary internet literary magazine, *Words Without Borders*. What follows is drawn from her August 2002 proposal for the project, which she hopes to launch soon. Her goal is nothing less than that *Words Without Borders* "establish itself as a central resource for the community of those interested in international literature and travel," as it publishes approximately 100 selections a year—nonfiction, short stories, excerpts from novels, drama, screenplays, and poetry.

"Designed to nurture and promote American access to international literature and understanding of foreign cultures in the age of globalization, *Words Without Borders* will:

1) **Promote international communication** through literary translation of works otherwise unavailable in English, presented in a form highly accessible to educators and the general public over the Internet.

2) **Discover exciting new writers** around the world, and bring these to the attention of literary agents, magazines, book publishers, and other cultural gatekeepers in order to promote further translation and distribution.

3) **Expand the reach of students and educators** by enabling them to access and download fresh, contemporary material in dual languages (print and audio), and to recommend works to be translated for use in their classrooms.

4) **Link interest in travel with interest in literature**, using literary travel features to attract readers to the site and give travelers in our globally mobile age greater insight into their destinations.

5) **Help to preserve cultural diversity** by offering writers working in languages other than English access to a world audience.

...  

"Americans have been increasingly restricted in what they might read from the rest of the world. A recent survey by the NEA Literature Program showed that of the close to 13,000 works of fiction and poetry published in the United States in 1999, a total of 297 were translated from other languages, including new translations of classic works. In contrast to the 2% of literature published in America that is translated from other languages, some 35-75% of the literary books published each year in various European countries are translations from other languages, including English. Despite all the sound and fury in the U.S. about multiculturalism and threats to the literary canon, the NEA study shows that in all of 1999, American publishers produced only one literary work translated from a Native American language and none in translation from sub-Saharan Africa."

...  

"There's a whole world out there beyond the borders of English, and we don't know what we're missing. For a true multiculturalism . . . and for true communication in an increasingly global economy and a networked world, it is essential to increase American access to the world's best writing and most stimulating thinking in other languages."

[N.B.: A design demo for the *Words Without Borders* site is now available at [http://inside.bard.edu/webtest/interlit/](http://inside.bard.edu/webtest/interlit/)]

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**Kirkpatrick & the Qur'an**

Professor Robert Kirkpatrick, chair of the committee that chose Michael Sells's *Approaching the Qur'an* for the UNC Summer Reading Program, spent the second half of the summer writing emails and letters in defense of that choice. While dealing with bomb threats and seriously hostile epistles as a result of a brief appearance on the O'Reilly Factor on Fox 58, he says that the writing he did can be called "creative" only in the broadest sense: an affidavit for the University in the lawsuit over the study of the Qur'an, brought by Family Policy Network of Virginia. "I practiced the strictest realism in describing the long history of the committee's decision to require Sells's scholarly book," he said, "but trying to imagine what the Virginians had in mind regarding UNC's academic policy did involve, necessarily, an excursion into surrealism and fantasy."

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**In Memoriam**

**Mary Julia Caspary**

Julia Caspary, Community Relations Manager for the Barnes & Noble bookstore at New Hope Commons in Durham, N.C., died July 27th at the age of sixty. Through her active, imaginative and energetic promotion of personal appearances, readings and signings by North Carolina authors, she became a very familiar and popular figure on our literary scene. Julia was a goodhearted champion of the state's writers, and, more than that, she was our friend. We will all miss her.

For information about the Mary Julia Caspary Memorial Fund at the Student Coalition for Action and Literacy Education (SCALE), please call 919-962-1542.
Richard Allen ('97) has been accepted into the poetry program at New York University for fall 2002. He and his fiancée were wed in Virginia in August.

Forsyth Alexander ('82) has had her non-fiction work published, The Regional Arts of the Early South: A Sampling from the Collection of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (UNC Press, 1991), and is working on a fiction project.

Stephen Ausherman ('89)'s novel, Typical Pigs, was a finalist in the 2001 Peter Taylor Prize, and won first prize in the 2002 American Writer's Contest and will be published Fall 2002.


Mario Baldessari ('81) has written two novels, begun work on a third, and wrote a new comedy show which debuted this summer in DC.

Anne Patton Beatty ('00) is nearly finished with two years of Peace Corps service in Nepal, teaching English to 11th & 12th graders. Following travel this fall, she'll be back in NC by Christmas.

Brian Blanchfield ('95) was appointed 2002 Poet-in-residence of Purchase College where he teaches a seminar in poetry writing to creative writing majors. His poems have been published in current issues of Agni, Fort Necessity, The Literary Review, & Slope.

Amy Freeman Branson ('81) is the "mother of a legal adult (agh!), dyeing hair, teaching 9th grade English (reason for dyeing hair...)."

R.W. Burniske, PhD ('82) is the author of Literacy in the Cyberage and co-author of Breaking Down the Digital Walls.

Athanasiou (Thanassis) Cambanis ('96) writes for the Boston Globe and was interviewed recently on NPR about the biotech theft story he covered. www.npr.org/ramfiles/atac20020620.atac07.ram

Steve Carr ('86) has been awarded fellowships with the US Holocaust Museum and the National Endowment for Humanities.

Oliver Carter ('01) drove to Costa Rica from Colorado last fall.

Peter Cashwell ('85) married to Kelly Dalton ('85) teaches English at the Woodberry School in Virginia. His book The Verb to Bird will be published in January 2003.

William Conescu ('95) entered the graduate writing program and began a teaching assistantship at NC State this fall.

Beth Cooley ('80) is an associate professor at Gonzaga University where she teaches literature and writing. She, her husband and two daughters live in Spokane, WA. Her poems recently appeared in the Santa Clara Review, the Red Rock Review, the Crab Creek Review, and the Talking River Review. Her work Ostrich Eye was the 2002 winner of the Delacorte Press Contest for First Young Adult Novel (expected publication, 2004).

Blake Crouch ('00)'s new novel Desert Places (St. Martin's Press) is due out in 2003, with a sequel to follow.

John Crutchfield ('94) completed his PhD in English at Cornell University and is teaching playwriting and dramatic literature as Assistant Professor at Appalachian State. His third full length play Ruth, a verse play, was produced at Lenoir-Rhyne College in June.

Alison (Ali) Fischer ('99) is returning to academia, "law school at Columbia U. Maybe they will let me hang around the Creative Writing department if I'm good!"

Charles "Chuck" Gamble ('95) is happily busy teaching theatre as an artist in the schools, performing with Theater Grottesco and Shakespeare in Santa Fe. He worked in County Cork, Ireland this summer on a stage adaptation of Seamus Deane's "Ghost Story" with a company from Ecole Lecoq in Paris.

Ben Fountain III ('80) lives with his wife Sharon and two kids, John and Lee, in Dallas, TX. He had a story in the Spring 2002 issue of Zoetrope: All Story, has submitted a short story collection titled Brief Encounters with Che Guevara and Other Stories, and is working on a novel, Dallas Rich.

Pat Fox ('02) and Holly Herweyer ('02) were married in June and live in Missoula, Montana. He has started law school at University of Montana and she is writing and editing for UM's university relations division.

Shana Fulton ('98) is an associate attorney at Williams & Connolly, LLP, in Washington, DC.

Kate Goldstein ('01) is finishing her Masters in English at Indiana University.

W. Caldwell Gray ('83) is married to Kristin Terry Gray ('87), owns Preach Records, Cravin' Dogs, and is sound engineer for Bruce Hornsby. His seventh record, Roots Rock Paper Scissors was released in 2000, and a new album is due this fall.

Lochrane Grant ('79, MD '87) has two children and is a doctor in South Carolina.
Kate Guillemette ('98) received an MA in Creative Writing from BU, 2000, an MA in English, is currently a PhD student in poetry & phonetics, and an assistant instructor at University of Texas at Austin.

Tamara Hall ('84) is in her fourth year of teaching high school French, has a nine year old daughter, writes freelance non-fiction, and has an education text aimed at elementary school teachers coming out in November.

David Hardy ('82) had his recent documentary The Trials of Eddie Hatcher screened in New York in 2001. His collected novels Mike Capa Omnibus is due out in October.

Melissa Hardy-Trevenna ('74) won the Journey Prize in 1994, for Long Man the River, an excerpt from Constant Fire. She was also nominated as a finalist for the Western Magazine Awards Program for The Ice Woman. Her work has been anthologized in Best American Short Stories of 1999, Best American Short Stories of 2001, (Houghton-Mifflin) and The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, (St. Martin's Press). The Uncharted Heart, her most recent collection of short stories, was published in 2001 by Knopf Canada and received the Canadian Authors Association Jubilee Award.

Melinda Schuessler Harper ('99) is finishing her PhD in psychology at the University of Tennessee.

Ryan Harper ('96, MAT '99) is teaching seventh grade Language Arts in the Knoxville, TN public schools.

Priscilla Holbrook ('84) is a working actor in New York City, with a stand-up act on the way.

Julie Sheldon Huffaker ('90) returned from over a year of world travel with her partner. "A glorious adventure: cooking lessons in Vietnam, camel trekking in India, safari in Tanzania... After spending the year being a student of 15 countries and even more cultures, I am settling back into this one. Considering a book project once the dust settles. Be well."

John Ikeda ('99) is back in the states, studying international business at the University of Wisconsin. He and his fiance, Laura, will marry sometime after graduation.

Peter Jay Ing Rao ('96) is studying for his PhD at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Courtney Jones ('01) completed her MA in English & Creative Writing at Hollins University, and was the recipient of the 2002 Melanie Rice Hook Memorial Award for "Most Promising Work in Progress" at Hollins. Her story "Irregularities" has been nominated for Best New American Voices.

Thomas Kakassy ('77) is an attorney in private practice in NC.

Randall Kenan ('85) was the recipient of the 2001 Dos Passos Prize at Longwood. He is currently Lehman Brady Visiting Professor at Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill, teaching "The American Voice: Capturing Speech, Memory and Culture" and "Modes of Documentary Writing" at Carolina.

Tim Keppel ('78) lives in Colombia, and enjoys teaching literature and creative writing courses. He's working on a collection of stories about Colombia, one of which was published in Glimmer Train, and two have been translated and published in the two main Colombian literary magazines, El MalPensante and Revista Numero.

Margaret Kopp ('02) is teaching sixth and seventh grade English at Saint Catherine's School in Richmond, VA.

Jennifer Layton ('91) is working as a freelance writer for Spectator Magazine, the Cary News, and Indie-Music.com, with a focus on independent music.

Rebecca Lemon ('72) is still in software development and has turned to gardening. Her spouse, Michael Pope, received his doctorate in Wildlife Science June, 2002. Son Nathaniel Pope "is 15 (need I say more?)."

Melanie Sumner Marr ('86) is the mother of two, son Sumner Rider Marr (Rider) born March, 2002, and daughter Zoe, age 4. Her husband, David Marr (age 38) died of ALS in December, 2001. She published an article on David's life and death in Ladies' Home Journal, and her novel The School of Beauty and Charm has been nominated for a Townsend Award and featured on NPR.

Skip Matheny ('01) recently celebrated his fourth wedding anniversary. His band, Roman Candle, received a record deal with Outlook Music Company, released their album Says Pop nationally in May 2002, and won MTV's "You Hear It First" competition.

Chandler McRae ('87) is currently working on his MFA in Creative Nonfiction at Queens University in Charlotte, NC.

Kate Rindfleisch McGrath ('85) is the mother of two, Sarah and Hannah. Her play November Women was published on-line this spring, and has received three foreign productions (Canadian, Central Asian, and Russian!).

Sheryl Dee Melbene ('98) is on track to finish research for a PhD in Chemistry, Spring 2003. Her first novel, Lady Bird became available at www.pearlstreetpublishing.com this summer. She plans to give readings along the East Coast and in California this fall.
Jenny Offill ('90) returns to Chapel Hill as a guest of the Scholar's Program Seminar in Spring 2003.

Liisa Ogburn ('89) has a wonderful husband, a two year old son, Aidan, and a daughter due November 1. She is currently working independently in documentary, launched a website (www.eatthesewords.com), and is developing a mixed media show, *Women in Limbo*.

Owen Page ('79) received his MFA from Trinity University in playwriting. He currently works for the marketing department of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Michael Parker ('84) is an associate professor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at UNC-Greensboro. His work *I am a River* was published in June by Harper Perennial paperback, and he has new stories in *Five Points*, *Idaho Review*, and the *Literary Review*.

Joanna Pearson ('02) is a finalist for the Ruth Lilly Fellowship awarded annually by *Poetry* magazine in Chicago.

Sarah Park Stuart Rankin ('84) has two daughters and recently became a kitchen designer and home renovator.

Kathryn Reklis ('01) enrolled in Yale Divinity School Fall 2002, and married fellow UNC English grad, Patrick Redding, on June 22, 2002.


Linda Robertson ('83) is a columnist for *The Miami Herald* and covered both the 2002 Winter Olympics and World Cup soccer. Their three children really keep her and her journalist husband running.

Warren Rochelle ('77) bought a house, attended & presented at a conference in Scotland, with travel after, and worked on novel 2 this fall. His essay is forthcoming in collection on Fred Chappell's fiction; another essay on teaching English 101 has been accepted for inclusion in a collection by prize winning teachers, *It Really Works*. *The Golden Boy* will be out in *Silver Gryphon Anthology*.

Michael Rowlett ('94) joined the University of Mississippi at Oxford's music faculty this fall, teaching clarinet.

Jonathan Sasser ('78, JD '81) is a trial lawyer in Raleigh, NC, and attributes his success as a lawyer to the Creative Writing Program.

Dan Schwankl ('96) is currently milking goats for money and living at a homeless shelter while building a small home out of wattle and clay. He's had two articles published in the *New Southern Catholic Radical*, a quarterly newspaper out of Silk Hope.

Dave Shaw ('88) lives with his wife Natalie and two year old daughter Mia, and works as deputy editor of UNC's *Southern Cultures*. His stories have appeared in *The Greensboro Review*, and *Racing Home: New Stories by Award-Winning North Carolina Authors*.

Sherry Shaw ('92) celebrated eight years of marriage this fall. She won the 2001 Regional Arts Grant for Short Story Collection, and was a 2002 finalist in the Glimmer Train short story contest.
Julia Ridley Smith ('94) has had stories accepted by Carolina Quarterly ("Back in History Things Were Dirty and Loud"), American Literature Review ("Mrs. West"), and Arts and Letters ("Tooth").

Colin Soloway ('92) is a contributing editor at Newsweek, with his work on John Walker Lindh appearing in the December 10, 2002 issue. He has appeared on the NBC Today Show, This Week with Cokie Roberts, and Larry King Live.

Joy Surles ('01) is a Teaching Fellow at Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY, where she is pursuing a Master in Creative Writing. One of her poems was published in the 2002 journal Downtown Brooklyn.

Leighann Scroggins Swanson ('98) continues working as a fundraising professional for the Charlotte, NC Chamber and is a contributing writer for Ventures Charlotte magazine. She traveled to Wyoming & Utah for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Adam Tarleton ('01) is a finalist for the Ruth Lilly Fellowship awarded annually by Poetry magazine in Chicago.

William Booth Taylor ('97) is teaching Art & Design at Norwalk Community College, and Westchester Community College.

Virginia Hege Tobiassen ('81) has been promoted to Editorial Development Chief at McFarland & Company, one of the largest publishers in the southeast. She has a one-woman show performing a rhyming version of A Christmas Carol.

Michael Van Hecke ('80) has two daughters, and has articles on spirituality/healing and a poem published recently, writes course manuals, and is working on a manuscript.

Matthew Vollmer ('96) and Kelly Pender ('97) expect their first child in December. He is a limited term lecturer at Purdue University. During his month long residency at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, MN, he started a novel. He has published a review in Hiram Poetry Review, fiction published in the spring issue of Prism International, summer issue of Tin House, fall issue of Maize, and McSweeney's Internet Tendency.

Caroline Waddell ('02) is employed as the Johnston/Carolina Scholars Program Coordinator in UNC-Chapel Hill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office.

Melissa Waldrop ('94) and her husband are expecting their first baby, a girl, in October.

Roger Wall ('77) lives nine blocks from the site of the former World Trade Center, and had his essay "Pondering ground zero: What it is, what it should be" published in Downtown Express.

Daniel Wallace ('82)'s novel Big Fish will go into film production in Alabama in January 2003, with Albert Finney playing the role of the father.

Jim Wann ('70) has two new musicals, co-written with wife Patricia Miller, Jim's Garage, and The People vs. Mona. Jim joined Bland Simpson and Don Dixon for a Tybee Island, GA, fundraiser of their show King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running.

Garrett Weyr ('87) has published her third novel, spring 2002, by Houghton Mifflin, and her fourth is due out spring 2003. Her pen name is now Garret Freymann-Weyr, and her work can be found in "all the usual places."

Jackson Wheeler ('75) completed work on a curriculum/video series on teaching community safety skills to the developmentally disabled. New works appear in ArtLife, rivertalk anthology, and are forthcoming in Chiron Review and Rivendell.

Kristen A. Williams ('01) is in the MFA program in poetry at the University of California - Irvine.

Lesley Williams ('02) has entered the MA Program in the Department of Human Development and Psychological Counseling at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

Tracy D. Wood ('97) is working as an estimator/office manager, and has finished the second draft of her first major novel. She has a boyfriend and is working on opening her own bookstore and publishing company.

Katie Zimmerman ('02) recently began working at RED Distribution in New York, as inventory coordinator working with various record labels.

Susan Zimmerman ('73) has published Writing to Heal the Soul: Transforming Grief and Loss Through Writing, (Three Rivers Press).
Tim McLaurin  
December 14, 1953 - July 11, 2002

On Friday evening, August 2nd, 2002, a memorial service was held for Tim McLaurin in Stewart Theater on the campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh, where he taught. His children, Meghan and Christopher, together read aloud the text below, which Tim wrote and read himself at the reburial of his own father on McLaurin family land in Cumberland County. Tim McLaurin, alumnus of our Creative Writing Program and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill in Journalism, was not only one of our own -- he was one of our best.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,  
what we have returned here  
are merely the fossils of a man.  
His spirit, the essence of my father  
Never left these woods and fields he claimed as home.

I have heard his voice  
in the lonely coo of the mourning dove,  
in the whisper of the wind in sweetgum branches,  
in the slow rumble of thunder in summer storms.

When I have needed to feel his flesh,  
I touched him in the soil of this pasture  
cleared by his hand with sharp steel and sweat,  
in the rough bark of giant oaks  
he left standing in the woods,  
as home to deer, rabbit, and squirrel.

When I have needed to look once again upon his face,  
I have not turned to photographs,  
but gazed into the eyes of my brothers  
upon my sisters' hair  
to my own son and daughter,  
into the mirror,  
for each of us carries a part of him in our blood  
and he lives on in our breath and laughter and tears.

What better can be said of a man  
than that he was loved  
and that in the span of years departed  
that love has multiplied in his descendants.  
We gather before this monument  
but know he never really left  
as even now he stands among us.

Tim McLaurin -- July 11, 1992

The Acorn Plan, 1988 *** Woodrow's Trumpet, 1989  
Keeper of the Moon, 1991, Mayflower Award for Non-fiction  
Cured by Fire, 1995, Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction  
The Last Great Snake Show, 1997 *** Lola, 1997 *** The River Less Run, 2000

If you are interested in contributing to a Tim McLaurin Memorial Bench on the Carolina campus, please send a contribution to:  
North Carolina Botanical Garden, Totten Center CBl# 3375, UNC- Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

Please note on the memo line of the check "Bench in Memory of Tim McLaurin." Gifts will be acknowledged & the family notified of contributor(s) name(s) only.
"The students in the Syracuse workshop class looked like my students back home: meditative, haunted, irreverent. Their clothes were baggy; their jammed-to-bursting book satchels were slung over backs of chairs. Writing students are the sort who will go sockless even in inclement weather."

---Marianne Gingher

from an essay in her 2001 memoir,

* A Girl's Life: Horses, Boys, Weddings, and Luck