Athas receives UNC Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement

Longtime Creative Writing Professor Daphne Athas ('43) — author of four novels, a book of poems, a nonfiction work on Greece, and winner of two National Endowment for the Arts Awards — won UNC Chapel Hill's 2003 Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement.

"On a chilly, rainy afternoon," wrote journalist Anne Blythe last spring, "she is curious about the derivation of 'mentor,' a word much on her mind since she found out several weeks ago that she would receive the Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement, a campus teaching award that comes with a $1,000 stipend and acknowledges her devotion outside the classroom to her students.

Mentor, with a capital 'M,' was the teacher of Telemachus, son of Odysseus, the hero of Homer’s epic poem. Mentor, with a little ‘m,’ means a wise, loyal adviser, a teacher or coach. For the students who have passed through the creative writing and stylistic classes that Athas has taught over the past 35 years — in Chapel Hill and in Tehran, Iran — the eccentric and enthusiastic teacher is the epitome of a mentor."

Comments gathered by Ms Blythe for her March 3rd, 2003, News & Observer feature about Professor Athas bear this out:

“She remembers her students,” said Mark Meares, a 1970s alumnus who now is a senior development officer at Carolina. “She remembers their characteristics and their ambitions.”

“Daphne is the most open-minded human being that I have ever met,” said Marianne Gingher, former chair of the UNC Chapel Hill creative writing program and a novelist who counts Athas among her friends and mentors. “She is just so intellectually thirsty and curious that she doesn’t want to close the door to any experience. She has this gigantic brain, but she is not intimidating. She is so accessible.”

Dave Krinsky, co-executive producer and a scriptwriter for Fox network’s animated “King of the Hill” said: “She’s such a down-to-earth person. I really do feel very comfortable with her. She definitely is a mentor to me, and whatever she says is very valuable. She gives constructive criticism touched with compassion. It’s a word you don’t hear used much any more, but she has wisdom.”

Books by Daphne Athas:
- Greece by Prejudice. Lippincott. [1963]
- Cora: A Novel. Viking. [1978]

Kenan joins Creative Writing faculty

Thanks to help from the Offices of the Provost and the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, we've brought one of the Creative Writing Program's real success stories home to teach with us on a permanent basis – starting with the '03-'04 academic year, Randall Kenan ('85) joined our faculty as Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing. Originally from Chinquapin, N.C., Mr. Kenan published A Visitation of Spirits in 1989, Let the Dead Bury Their Dead and Other Stories in 1992, later winning a Whiting Award and the Prix de Rome. In 2000 he brought out the non-fiction work Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century. He has taught at Sarah Lawrence, Columbia, the University of Mississippi, the University of Memphis, and, most recently, as Lehman Brady Professor, at Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill ('02-'03).

Professor Kenan comments on his return to Carolina: “On the first day of classes, my vintage 1986 Grand Marquis broke down in the middle of campus. But Public Safety (who we used to call the Campus Police) were kind enough to square away the car and deliver me to the front door of Greenlaw. A very good South African friend once told me that every journey that begins with an obstacle will end well. So I’m looking forward to this new sojourn back home at Chapel Hill.”
Creative Writing at Carolina, 2002-2003

One who has been given such a marvel as I have, the vigorous Creative Writing Program whose directorship Marianne Gingher passed on to me in 2002, has every reason on earth to be thankful, diligent, and of very good cheer indeed. And so I am – as if to crown our academic year, in April 2003 one of our number received the Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award from the University, our beloved colleague Daphne Athas, the very model of devotion to students and to the teaching of writing and literature.

For the record: during Carolina’s ‘02-’03 academic year, we offered 22 sections of prose (fiction, nonfiction, children’s literature, stylistics, play-writing) and 14 of poetry, with thirteen faculty members on staff for fall ‘02, ten for spring ‘03, serving 580 students. In 2003-04 we will offer 26 sections of prose and 15 of poetry. Department Chair James Thompson and the Department’s administrative board have steadfastly supported maintaining the Creative Writing Program at full strength even in the toughest times, and additional help from the Armfield Fund will underwrite a pair of poetry courses for spring 2004.

Emblematic of the wonderful major support we have received for programs beyond our regular classes, the Armfield Fund – a bequest to us from the late poet Blanche Britt Armfield (’28 MA), which came with her explicit mandate that it champion the cause of poetry on the Carolina campus – also allows us to present readings by major authors. Recent Armfield Poets include Michael Collier, Fall ‘02; Gail Mazur, Spring ’03; and Robert Wrigley, Fall 2 - Chapter & Verse.

‘03. We are always delighted when Ponza and Bob Vaughan – Ms. Armfield’s niece and her husband – are able to attend. The Rankin Faculty Support Fund, established by Alex Rankin (’77) of Goshen, Kentucky, helped us bring back legendary writer and Paris Review editorial board member Max Steele for a series of lectures in fall ‘02 on the short short story; the longtime former director of Creative Writing (1966-1988) gave a lecture to the Department’s faculty in September and then met individual classes throughout the program, discussing “short short story” writing and editing and initiating the Mini-Max competition.

The Morgan Family Writer-in-Residence series, created in 1993 by Carolina alumni Allen (’65) and Musette (’76) Morgan of Memphis, sponsored a lively, colorful week’s residency in March ’03 by Calvin Trillin, the best-selling and highly respected journalist-humorist-novelist. Mr. Trillin – author of American Fried; Alice, Let’s Eat; Third Helpings; Deadline Poet; U.S. Journal; and many more – delighted students in classes, at meals, and brought down the house at his Carroll Hall public reading March 19th, 2003.

Thanks to the generosity of James Kenan III (’68), during ‘02-’03 we had on campus our third Kenan Visiting Writer, poet Daniel Anderson, author of the highly-praised, Roerich Prize-winning book of poems, January Rain. His poems have been anthologized in The Best American Poetry series and read on National Public Radio by Garrison Keillor. He gave the Kenan Visiting Writer Reading on October 8th, 2002.

This fall 2003, we welcomed our fourth Kenan Visiting Writer, our first nonfiction writer in the series, Virginia Willingham Holman, author of Rescuing Patty Hearst (Simon & Schuster, Spring ‘03), who from 1999 to 2001 was Writer-in-Residence at Duke University Medical Center.

Thomas Clayton Wolfe (’20) casts a long, good shadow over North Carolina’s literary life in general and our program in particular. On October 3rd, 2002, the Thomas Wolfe Society, along with our Department of English and Creative Writing Program, honored prize-winning short story writer, novelist and memoirist Elizabeth Spencer with the third Thomas Wolfe Award for Literature. Ms. Spencer read about her girlhood camping and family-travel experiences in the North Carolina mountains, but not before the award medal was placed around her neck by our first Thomas Wolfe Scholar, Caitlin C. Doyle (’06). The Wolfe Award that Ms. Spencer received was endowed by Ben Jones III (’50), another of whose major donations also caused the creation of the Doris Betts Distinguished Professorship, held by Pam Durban.

On October 7th, 2003, the popular, best-selling novelist-screenwriter-memoirist Pat Conroy (The Prince of Tides, Beach Music, My Losing Season) of South Carolina received the fourth Thomas Wolfe Award. The award was presented to him by Hannah Poston (’07) and Ben Jones in Hill Hall. Thanks to the remarkable gift in 2001 by Frank Borden Hanes (’42) that established the Thomas Wolfe Scholarship, Hannah joined us as a freshman in August ‘03 as our second Thomas Wolfe Scholar. Ms. Poston, a gifted and widely-traveled young poet from Newtown, Pennsylvania, was selected by the Thomas Wolfe Scholarship Board of Advisors [poet Michael McFee (’76 AB, ’78 MA), non-fiction writer Jan DeBlieu, novelist David Payne (’77), novelist Marianne Gingher, and non-fiction writer Bland...
Simpson ('73)] after a national competition, preliminary readers for which were: Rebecca Greene Morphis ('97 AB, '01 MA), Tara Powell ('97 AB, '99 MA), and Amy Weldon ('99 MA).

At the heart of a great school is its dedicated faculty, and, both individually and collectively, ours in Creative Writing is top-flight. The members of our core faculty represent many scores of years teaching at Carolina: Daphne Athas, Laurence Avery, Michael Chitwood, Sarah Dessen, Pam Durban, Marianne Gingher, Randall Kenan, Robert Kirkpatrick, Michael McFee, Ruth Moose, Lawrence Naumoff, Margaret Rabb, James Seay, Alan Shapiro and Bland Simpson. Please enjoy poring over their individual accomplishments in "Faculty News," p. 10. Even by our high standards, our abidingly talented, extremely active faculty had an extraordinary '02-'03 inside the classroom, in lecture halls, on stages and beyond.

Novelist and short-story writer Daniel Wallace is with us as Lecturer in fiction for fall '03. Mr. Wallace, a CW alumnus, and has authored Big Fish (Oct. '98), Ray in Reverse (April '00), and this past season’s The Watermelon King (Houghton Mifflin), of which Library Journal said in its starred review: “Beautifully sensual, thought-provoking, and stunning in its originality. Highly recommended.”

We also have much appreciated help with three introductory CW classes from extremely talented members of the English Department’s graduate program: former Carolina Quarterly editor Tara Powell in poetry, current CQ editor Amy Weldon in fiction, and CQ’s poetry editor Tessa Joseph in poetry.

Beyond the CW Program and Greenlaw Hall, three examples of our faculty’s role in broader campus life are: 1) the steady development of a brand-new program starting in Fall ’03, Writing for Screen and Stage, directed by Communication Studies Professor David Sontag; Marianne Gingher attended numerous sessions as part of this curriculum’s steering committee and also made several trips to Los Angeles to meet with Carolina alumni who have found successful careers in film and television and who have dreamed of seeing this curriculum take shape and get up and running; 2) the effort toward establishing, through the Friday Center, a first-ever introductory Creative Writing workshop for the community at large, a semester-long, in-class experience for Fall '03, with Michael Chitwood teaching; 3) our continuing role in the Carolina Summer Reading Program’s selection committee, ably led by Robert Kirkpatrick last year; Bland Simpson served as a member of this year’s committee, which selected Barbara Ehrenreich’s nonfiction work Nickel & Dimed.

I began by praising the vigor and effectiveness of Creative Writing at Carolina, saluting earlier some of our major supporters; I cannot overstate how valuable donations — both large and small — are to our Program and to its continued state of good health. In addition to the great help we have from friends named Armfield, Hanes, Jones, Kenan, Morgan, and Rankin, we also most gratefully acknowledge the gifts that established new student writing prizes — by Mary Friday ('78) (Moore Prize in Creative Nonfiction) and by William H. Hooks ('47) (Hooks Awards for Children’s Literature) — as well as the support of Ben ('66 PhD) and Anne ('64 MA) Bolch; Ann Williams Burrus ('52); Ellen ('77) and Frederic ('75) M. Ball, Jr.; David ('88) and Margaret Mckinnon Gardner ('88); Karol Virginia Mason ('79); the Hyde Family Foundation of Memphis; and many, many more.

As ever, we invite contributions from alumni and friends to the Doris Betts/Jessie Rehder Creative Writing Fund, an endowment established in 1998 intended to support through innovations and enhancements the vitality of the Program. Readers interested in the Betts/Rehder Fund should contact: Mr. Jamie May, Director, The Arts & Sciences Foundation, CB# 6115, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599.

Thanks also to Program Assistant Lisa Foley-Pellicani, Chapter & Verse editor, who has given Creative Writing at Carolina most excellent staff support and who rounds out her first year and a half with us this holiday season.

Please stay in touch with us and, further, please do drop in (and come sit in on a class) when you find yourselves back in Chapel Hill and up on the old campus we hope you’ll always call home.

Bland Simpson, Director
A Literary Cascade

2003 PEN USA Award goes to CW alum Lydia Millet

The 2003 PEN USA Award for Fiction went to Lydia Millet for her novel, *My Happy Life* (Henry Holt and Co.) A novelist, essayist and screenwriter, Millet is also the author of *Omnivores* and *George Bush, Dark Prince of Love*, and writes extensively on conservation issues for nonprofit environmental organizations such as the Center for Biological Diversity.

In *My Happy Life*, a nameless narrator tells the story—with “often comic, often heartrending, often passionate insight”—of a young woman who is abandoned at birth in a shoebox, abused and neglected at foster homes and institutions. “In Ms. Millet’s hands, with the utterly original and compelling narrative voice she has fashioned, this is a novel that hypnotizes the reader,” said the judges. “It is the writer’s true gift, the leap of imagination, that startles and keeps us reading and imbues us with the rich interior life of this woman.” Millet received the Louis Rubin, Jr. Prize for fiction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Chesterfield Writer’s Film Project Fellowship for Screenwriting.

 때문 Pam Duncan receives 2003 Sir Walter Raleigh Award

“North Carolinian Pamela Duncan was clearly a writer of great promise when she was a student here not so many years ago, and with her first two novels, *Moon Women* (2001) and now *Plant Life*, she is delivering four-square on that promise,” said Bland Simpson, Director of Creative Writing at Carolina. “The delightful news that Ms. Duncan’s *Plant Life* has garnered this year’s Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction comes to us with more of a sense of fulfillment than surprise — her fellow Tar Heels will always be cheering her on.”

 때문 Michael Chitwood wins 2003 Roanoke-Chowan Prize

Michael Chitwood, a regular Lecturer in Creative Writing at Carolina for years, has won the 2003 Roanoke-Chowan Prize for Poetry for his book *Gospel Road Going*. This year marks the 50th annual presentation of the award. Chitwood’s award also marks the fourth year in a row that UNC Chapel Hill Creative Writing Program teachers have won the Roanoke-Chowan, the previous three being: Peggy Rabb, 2000; Michael McFee, 2001; Alan Shapiro, 2002.

“We are proud as the proverbial punch you always hear about that Michael Chitwood has won this year’s Roanoke-Chowan,” said Bland Simpson. “And taking the second cake, after Michael’s, is this remarkable fact of four in a row. If ever there were a twenty-one gun salute to poetry in our program, and to our amazing faculty, here it is.”

 때문 2003 North Carolina Award for Frank Hanes

Frank Borden Hanes, Sr., ’42, of Winston-Salem on December 1st receives one of 2003’s North Carolina Awards — the highest honor the State of North Carolina can bestow — from Governor Michael Easley. Mr. Hanes, creator of our program’s Thomas Wolfe Scholarship, is the author of such works as *Abel Anders: A Narrative* (Farrar, Straus and Young, 1951); *The Bat Brothers* (FS&Y, 1953); and *The Fleet Rabble: A Novel of the Nez Perce War* (L.C. Page-Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1989, c1961).

Michael McFee featured in re-opening of Thomas Wolfe Memorial in Asheville

Michael McFee will be a featured author next May at the reopening celebration of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial in his hometown of Asheville. He will take part in an “Authors Evening” scheduled on Friday, May 28, 2004, a moderated discussion during which the literary guests—which also include Fred Chappell, Wilma Dykeman, Gail Godwin, and Sharlyn McCrumb—will have the opportunity to talk about their experiences and influences as writers. There will also be book signings during the weekend at the local bookstores.

“I’m delighted to be returning to Asheville, where I grew up in the literary shadow of Thomas Wolfe,” McFee commented. “The reopening is one week before my 50th birthday: it took a half-century, but finally I can go home again as a writer among writers. And I’m glad that Tom’s spirit can go home again, too, even if that Old Kentucky Home has been torched and rebuilt!”

4 - Chapter & Verse
Kelly Russell’s article spurs alumni to memorialize fallen classmate

Creative Writing student Kelly Russell (’00) wrote an article during the spring of her senior year in Laurence Avery’s Creative Non-fiction class on Suellen Evans, the young woman murdered in the Arboretum in the summer of 1965. Kelly’s mother had been a classmate of Suellen’s.

“In Broad Daylight” was published in the Carolina Alumni Review and attracted the attention of an alumnus from the mid-sixties who, wanting to memorialize Suellen, contacted Charlotte Jones-Roe, development officer of the UNC Botanical Gardens. Starting with a gift from this alumnus, Ms. Jones-Roe launched a campaign to raise funds for a memorial, which has now ended successfully.

On Friday, October 24th, 2003, the Botanical Garden dedicated a handsome and comfortable bench in the Arboretum to the memory of Suellen Evans.

47W - Glossolalia Reunion

Calling all former Stylistics classmates! A reunion is being planned, consisting of a reprise of the current class’s show at 4:00 p.m. on January 24, 2004, followed by a reception with tributes to Daphne Athas and VCRs showcasing videos of past performances. Location TBA on the Carolina campus. Contact Mary Jo Southern, 305-740-7268 or maryjosouthern@hotmail.com.

New Semester-long class at Friday Center for non-UNC students

Michael Chitwood is currently teaching a 12-week Creative Writing Workshop at the Friday Center for Continuing Education. Mr. Chitwood is author of four collections of poetry and a book of essays. He teaches regularly in the Creative Writing Program.

After the first couple of class meetings, Chitwood remarked: “I would say that we are off to a good start. The class is lively and very diverse. We have a range of occupations represented including a student, a retired physician, a minister and a lawyer with a span of ages from 20 to 72. I think the combination of poets, journalists, fiction writers and essayists will provide a good cross pollination for all the participants. I’d say we’re at the beginning of a vital new project.”

For more information about this class and future Community Classroom offerings, go to www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/cni, or contact Mary Morrison, 919-843-4483 or mmorrison@email.unc.edu. The workshop is co-sponsored with the Creative Writing Program and the Friday Center for Continuing Education at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2003-2004 Creative Writing Events In Brief...

Oct. 7 - Pat Conroy
Thomas Wolfe Award, ceremony & lecture

Oct. 16 - Robert Wrigley
Fall Armfield poetry reading

February 19 - Wyatt Prunty
Spring Armfield poetry reading
3:30 p.m. Donovan Lounge, 223 Greenlaw

March 3 - Joan Didion
Morgan Writer-in-Residence public lecture
7:30 p.m. Hill Hall

March 25 - Virginia Holman
Kenan Visiting Writer reading
3:30 p.m. Donovan Lounge, 223 Greenlaw

Anna Franklin (’04) Honored for Poetry

A spring ’03 campus-wide writing competition called the “Beauty of Aging Unveiled,” sponsored by the UNC Institute on Aging, challenged students on campus to express positive views about aging. Anna Franklin (’04)—a member of Michael McFee’s senior Honors in Poetry Writing class for 2003-2004—won second place in the contest for her poem, “Palimpsest,” which the judges called “quite sophisticated and compelling.” She received a prize of $250 and gave a reading of her poem at the awards ceremony.
2003 Honors and Awards

Nineteen students were awarded Honors this past spring. Those students included, in fiction: Guney Acipayamli, Justin Ashmun Ansley, Zachary Scott Gresham, Rachel Lynne Hockfield, Michael Brandon Jones, Katherine Elizabeth Nelson, Lauren Elizabeth Reynolds, Leah Elizabeth Salter, Patricia Liza Soriano, and Heather Lynn Walker. Poetry Honors students were: Dorothy Davis Ball, Charles Newell Battle, II; Sarah Louise Blackburn; Wayla Joy Ewart Chambo; Sarah Michelle Dunsmore; Kerri Marie French; Megan Elizabeth Smith; Jennifer Kristen Taylor; and Derek Paul Vanderpool. Enormous congratulations to you all!

We gave out a host of Creative Writing prizes at the Honors reception in Wilson Library on April 25th. Judges were Doris Betts (for the Rubin and Steele fiction awards); Ron Rash (for the Armfield and House poetry awards); and Emily Herring Wilson (for the Moore nonfiction award), and the winners were:

Blanche Armfield Prize in Poetry
  Dorothy Davis Ball
  Glenn Pierre Hollar

William H. Hooks, Jr. Award for Children’s Literature
  Meredith Elizabeth Perry (Best Picture Book)
  Lucy Rebecca Bryan (tie, Best Young Adult Chapter)
  Erin Morgan Wilhelm-Hilkey (tie, Best Young Adult Chapter)

William H. Hooks, Jr. Conference Attendee Award
  Laura Catherine King

Mini-Max Short-Short Fiction Award
  Lauren Elizabeth Reynolds

Robert B. House Memorial Prize in Poetry
  Kerri Marie French
  Jennifer Kristen Taylor

Willie Lavonsa Moore Prize in Creative Non-Fiction
  Rachel Lynne Hockfield (1st place)
  Kate Miriam Coxon (2nd place)
  Brent Howell Winter (3rd place)

Louis D. Rubin Jr. Prize in Fiction
  Guney Acipayamli

Max Steele Award for Fiction
  Justin Ashmun Ansley
  Leah Elizabeth Salter (Runner-Up)
  Katherine Elizabeth Nelson (Runner-Up)

Doris Smith Williams Prize / The Academy of American Poets
  Derek Paul Vanderpool

George B. Wynne Award for Fiction
  Rebecca Leah Brunstetter (1st place)
  Rowen Frances Marks (2nd place)
A sampler of alumni publishing news:

- **Peter Cashwell (‘85)**
  *The Verb ‘To Bird’*
  Paul Dry Books
  March 2003

- **Stephen March (‘73)**
  *Armadillo*
  University of Texas A & M
  University Press
  August 2003

- **Blake Crouch (‘00)**
  *Desert Places*
  St. Martin’s Minotaur
  January 2004

- **Dave Shaw (‘88)**
  *Here Comes the Roar*
  University of North Texas Press
  December 2003

- **Pam Duncan (‘83)**
  *Plant Life*
  Delacorte Press
  April 2003

- **Wendy Rountree (‘94)**
  *Lost Soul*
  PublishAmerica
  April 2003

(See “Alums All Over” pp 12-15 for more news.)

**The 2003 Hooks Conference Award**

Laura King, a senior English major and Creative Writing minor at Carolina, was the winner of the 2003 Hooks Award which enabled her to attend the annual conference of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, held in August in Los Angeles. She reported back to us after school started:

“I was the youngest person to attend the 2003 meeting of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, held last month in Los Angeles. Well over 1,000 people attended, and I learned some of the secrets of getting published from top editors and publishers. I heard keynote speeches by Newbery and Caldecott medalists, had a conversation with Arthur Levine, publisher of the Harry Potter books, and rode the elevator with Norton Juster, author of *The Phantom Tollbooth*. And, I met the creators of the books I knew and loved growing up.

“In addition to getting lots of face time with important people, I read a piece of my writing at an open-mic night, showcased my artwork in a juried display, and attended workshops of my choice. If I was at all lacking in inspiration when I first arrived in Los Angeles, I left feeling as though I’d realized my dream. The Hooks Award gave me the opportunity of a lifetime, and infused in me a passion that I never knew I had.”

William H. Hooks (‘47), the author of more than fifty books himself, established the Hooks Conference Award Prize, as well as the Hooks Award for Children’s Literature, with both Young Adult and Picture Book categories.
Hannah Poston - 2003 Wolfe Scholar

Hannah Poston, 18, of Newtown, Pa., has been awarded the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's second Thomas Wolfe Scholarship in creative writing. She has come to Carolina as a freshman, Fall 2003.

The scholarship, first awarded last year, provides a student with full financial support for four years. Candidates are chosen based on their written work, which can include poetry, fiction, plays and literary non-fiction. The winner must possess focused literary ability and promise. Artistic merit is the chief criterion for selection.

"We hoped to find someone who was a prodigy, already on the way to becoming an extraordinary writer, and one who would really develop his or her skills further here at UNC," said Bland Simpson, Director of the Creative Writing Program. "We want to be sure we've got the person who will be the best for Carolina." Poston was chosen from among 100 applicants from across the country.

"She's very well traveled," Simpson said. "It shows up in her poetry with very vivid images about living abroad." Poston has lived in East Jerusalem and traveled in Russia, Vietnam and the United States. Poston, who attended George School in Newtown, studied writing at the Pennsylvania Governor's School of the Arts summer program.

"I write to articulate the things I discover, be they truths or simple observations," Poston said. "Writing is about telling my version of the world, but placing the words in such a way that they are stunning to encounter is just as important."

The scholarship honors author and UNC alumnus Thomas Wolfe, who gained prominence after publication of his novel "Look Homeward, Angel" in 1929. Frank Borden Hanes Sr. of Winston-Salem, a novelist, poet and retired journalist who graduated from UNC in 1942, contributed $2 million to establish the scholarship. Hanes has long supported faculty and programs in the literary arts.

—Jena Wittkamp, UNC News Services

Virginia Holman - Kenan Visiting Writer 2003-2004

Virginia Willingham Holman, our fourth Kenan Visiting Writer and our first nonfiction writer in the series, is author of the very well received memoir *Rescuing Patty Hearst: Memories From a Decade Gone Mad* (Simon & Schuster, March ’03). Ms. Holman was Writer-in-Residence at Duke University Medical Center from 1999 to 2001.

*Rescuing Patty Hearst*, about growing up with her untreated schizophrenic mother, explores the ways that the legal and clinical system during the 1970s and ‘80s prevented her family from getting her mother the treatment that she desperately needed. Holman has written for *Redbook, Self, DoubleTake, USA Today*, and the *Washington Post*.

A portion of *Rescuing Patty Hearst* received a Pushcart Prize in 2001. Ms. Holman’s memoir received starred reviews from both *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*, and *People*’s review said simply: “Bottom Line: Captivating.” Simon & Schuster will release the paperback edition in the spring of ’04.

Ms. Holman received a National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Outstanding Literature Award for 2003, and read at the NAMI national conference. In September, Professor Holman spent three days as a Rosalyn Carter Fellow in Mental Health Journalism at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Before that month was out, she was also awarded a North Carolina Arts Council Grant for Literary Nonfiction.
Creative Writing at the movies...

Sarah Dessen learns *How to Deal* with all the publicity. The movie, *How to Deal*, based on her young adult novels *That Summer* and *Someone Like You* opened in theatres in July of 2003, ranking #8 in the nation after its opening weekend. The re-release of these novels, packaged together as a promo for the movie, has resulted in a top 10 NY Times bestseller rating. Friends, family, and Creative Writing folk attended the Chapel Hill premiere of the movie prior to the opening weekend. Dessen and her husband attended the NYC premiere where celebrity sightings abounded.

Sarah was invited on set during filming in Canada, and observed the taping of the wedding scene. “I kept thinking, as I sat in that church—watching a wedding I made up in my head go on right before my eyes—that all those years ago as I’d sat writing these stories I never would have believed in a million years that any of this could ever happen. It made me realize, again, how lucky I am to do what I do.”


Daniel Wallace Lands Great *Big Fish*

Daniel Wallace’s first book, *Big Fish*, is now a major motion picture, directed by Tim Burton from a script by John August. *Big Fish* will premiere mid-December in New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto, and by late January 2004 everywhere else.

Daniel speaks of the film experience: “Billy Crudup read the book. He said that when he saw a Tar Heel was part of the project he knew he had made the right decision by coming on. Albert Finney didn’t read it, but that was okay: he knew who I was, and he was the nicest man you’d ever want to meet. Helena Bonham Carter didn’t say she didn’t, and didn’t say she did, but I could tell that, if she didn’t, she wished she had. Tim Burton definitely read it, but I doubt he could tell you what scenes were in the screenplay that weren’t in the book, and visa versa. Allison Lohman read it and loved it: that’s what she said. Loved it. But Ewan McGregor? Not only did he not read it, when he met me he couldn’t have cared less who I was. I was just another guy who wanted to talk to him. As for the others — Danny DeVito, Jessica Lange, Steve Buscemi — I didn’t meet them, so I can’t say who among them read it, but if I had to guess I’d say maybe one out of three. Maybe.”

For more information on the movie, go to www.minadream.com/timburton/BigFish.php, and visit Daniel’s website, www.danielwallace.org.
Faculty News

In addition to receiving the Mentor Award, Daphne Athas read and lectured throughout the state, from St. Andrew’s College to Person County Public Library, and in April broadcast a reading of her essay “The Bicycle Path” on the State of Things, WUNC-FM.

Danny Anderson wrote “well over a fourth” of his second collection of poetry, Drunk in Sunlight (which will be published by Overlook Press) during his Kenan Visiting Writer year and won an NEA Fellowship. He also published an essay/review of The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry in the September Issue of Harper’s.

A play from Laurence Avery’s playwriting class won an award from our Dramatic Art department, as well as production there; Dr. Avery is working on a Lincoln Center (N.Y.C.) project that will use Paul Green plays in a workshop for theater directors.

Michael Chitwood’s Gospel Road Going (Tryon Publishing, Oct. ’02) is the recipient of the 2003 Roanoke-Chowan Award from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society. After his reading at the Appalachian Colleges Association annual meeting, the ACA sponsored a tour of nine member colleges for him — in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. LSU Press has accepted his latest book, From Whence, scheduled for Fall ’07 publication.

Sarah Dessen’s most recent book, This Lullaby, was chosen as a Best Book of the Year by Publisher’s Weekly and was a L.A. Times Book Prize Finalist in the Young Adult category. How to Deal, a feature film based on her first two novels, was released in theatres in July.

Pam Durban keynoted the annual gathering of Sea Islands book clubs at Fripp Island, S.C., and published stories in the Carolina Quarterly and Five Points. Her short story, “Keep Talking,” is in the latest Selected Shorts, a series of works performed at Symphony Space, New York, and then distributed to NPR stations nationwide.

Marianne Gingher was a featured speaker at Barton College, Wilson, N.C.; at the S.C. Book Festival, Columbia; at the Raleigh Fine Arts Society Banquet (with Governor Easley in attendance), and in April she was writer-in-residence at Chatham Hall Preparatory School, Chatham, Virginia. Her essay “Horses and Boys” appears in the new Best of the Oxford American: Ten Years of Good Writing.

Virginia Holman, our Kenan Visiting Writer for ’03-’04, received an Outstanding Literature Award from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill for her first book, a memoir of her mother’s untreated schizophrenia (Rescuing Patty Hearst, Simon & Schuster), a Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship, and was recently awarded a North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship in nonfiction.

Tessa Joseph holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Cornell University and is working on her PhD in English Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she also teaches and serves as Poetry Editor of the Carolina Quarterly. Her poems have appeared in Sulfur, the Cold Mountain Review, and the Seneca Review, among other journals.

Randall Kenan contributed a new story to an anthology of religious-themed fiction, Killing the Buddha: A Heretic’s Bible, due out in January. He is finishing a novel set in Chapel Hill and New York, and beginning interviews for a book on the North Carolina hog industry tentatively titled “Swine Dreams.”

Robert Kirkpatrick conducted the sixth annual London Summer Honors Seminar in Great Works of the Western Tradition. Among the guest lecturers were Rachel and Jerry Mills. Professor Mills taught classes on the iambic poetics of history and myth in Richard II and III, and in Marlowe’s Dido, Queen of Carthage as introductions to performance of the plays in the new Globe Theatre. Poet and painter Rachel Mills conducted workshops in keeping a writer’s journal, required of all students. The use of peer-to-peer collaborative technology in teaching poetry at UNC is featured in an article in the lastest issue of Groove Bulletin at http://www.grove.net/customers/casestudies/education/unc.html. Robert has used the program [an amazing platform developed by Ray Ozzie the inventor of Lotus Notes and currently being used for humanitarian collaboration in Iraq and Sri Lanka] for several of his English 29w classes in poetry writing. His son, who graduated from UNC in classics, and is presently Architect for Humanities Systems at Groove, first suggested to him the value of the program in teaching creative writing.

Michael McFee’s Earthly was Co-runner-up in the national Poet’s Prize competition (presented in N.Y.C. in May), and he was the subject of the 21st Emory and Henry Literary Festival (Emory, VA), which each fall honors the work of an author with strong ties to southern Appalachia; the proceedings have been published as a special issue of The Iron Mountain Review.
Ruth Moose conducted workshops at Meredith College, Raleigh, and at Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.; she published short stories in The State, Sunday Journal, Creosote, and the anthologies American Childhoods and One Paycheck Away, attended the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Conference, read at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C., and published poems in The Chronicle and Southern Review. Ruth and her work are featured (“Southern Dreams: Ruth Moose’s Fiction”) in a new book from the University Press of Southern Denmark, Clara Juncker’s Through Random Doors We Wandered, Women Writing the South. Her poem “Spit Bath” won a top award at Clark College in Washington state.

Lawrence Naumoff has been finishing his sixth novel, the story of the Hamlet (N.C.) chicken plant fire of 1991, with working titles The Truth is Small and Close to Home or The Town Coltrane Left Behind.

Tara Powell is the Hugh McColl Fellow in Southern Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she is a Ph.D. candidate. Her poetry has appeared in Asheville Poetry Review, Blue Unicorn, South Carolina Review, Southern Poetry Review, and other journals. She has written for the Raleigh News and Observer and edited The Carolina Quarterly.

Margaret Rabb participated in the Southern Festival of Books (Nashville, TN) and the Great Smokies Writing Program in Asheville; she developed and taught a 4-week poetry seminar, for the Community Classroom program at UNC’s Friday Center. In August she joined the faculty of The Frost Place Seminars in Franconia, New Hampshire, and in October gave a reading at the Southern Women Writers’ Conference at Berry College.

James Seay’s translations of poetry and an interview with him appeared in the Swedish literary magazine Lyrikvänner, and one of his poems was reprinted in Southern Cultures.

Alan Shapiro was elected fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and his book of poems, Song and Dance, won the 2002 Roanoke-Chowan Award from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society.

Bland Simpson published Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals (UNC Press, Oct. ’02); read and performed all over the South; appeared on William Friday’s North Carolina People and D.G. Martin’s N.C. Bookwatch, (UNC TV statewide); and led Carolina students on trips to Dare County, N.C., and into the Great Dismal Swamp.

Daniel Wallace has stories forthcoming in Five Points, Art and Letters and Glimmer Train. His third novel, The Watermelon King, will be published in paperback in December. His first novel, Big Fish, will be released as a major motion picture in December, directed by Tim Burton and starring Albert Finney, Billy Crudup (’90), Ewan McGregor, and many others. He’s working on a screenplay for Universal Studios called “Timeless.”

Amy Weldon, a Ph.D candidate in 19th-century British literature at UNC, is the editor of The Carolina Quarterly. Her fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in StoryQuarterly, Southern Cultures, The North Carolina Literary Review, The Carolina Quarterly, Yemassee, and The South Carolina Review. Her academic articles have appeared in The Mississippi Quarterly and the online Romantic-studies journal Cardiff Corvey. This fall, she received from the UNC English Department a Laurence Avery Award for Outstanding Teaching in Literature by a Graduate Student.

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Chapter & Verse - 11
ALUMS ALL OVER....

Rebecca Bailey ('80) is a husky-shepherd, Laika, turned 7 in June, and enjoys doggerel. Rebecca completed her full length play "Midnight Son" and hoped to have a public reading on UNC campus in the Fall.

Sharlene Baker ('86) co-authored the screenplay for Love Always, a 1997 movie now on AMC-TV and in theaters in Europe, which was based on her 1990 novel Finding Signs. She is Editor-in-Chief of The Paper Journey Press, which has published Racing Home: Award-Winning Writers of NC, among others.

David Ball ('92) did improvisational comedy in New York, has written freelance articles on computer and the Internet, made a full-length film a couple of years ago modeled on John Cassavetes's films, and has been working on a novel.

Joseph Berryhill ('84) became an assistant professor of psychology at UNC-Asheville in 2002. He and his wife, Kristie, expected their first child September 1.

Sarah Blackburn ('03) worked as a camp counselor at the TASIS school in Lugano, Switzerland this past summer.

Tessa Blake ('91) married fellow alum and writer, Ian Williams ('90) in August 2003 at their home in NY. They are finishing their independent feature comedy The Pink House, which makes its debut at festivals during '03-'04.

Brian Blanchfield ('95) is teaching as a Visiting Professor in the BFA Writing Program at Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn, NY. Not Even Then, his first collection of poetry will be published by the University of California Press in April.

Kirven Blount ('92) has completed a novel, several magazine articles, and country music reviews for the Austin Chronicle. He created a satirical literary magazine, foot foot, and edited the Clinton Chronicle in Manhattan. He wrote and directed and produced an off-Broadway play, Change, then wrote, directed, acted in and edited Flowers.

Suzanne Bolch ('88) is happy in Toronto with husband, Michael. She won a TV Writers' Guild of Canada Award for 2003 and the Alliance of Children & Television Award for "Our Hero," and has four shows in development with her company, Heroic Film Co., and the CBC, Family Channel, and YTV (like Nickelodeon.)

Josh Boyer ('94) is living in Durham with his wife Jennifer, and son, Alex (nearly two) and working at NC State as a librarian.

Daina Bray ('98) has one year left at Stanford Law School, and interned last year with the Center for Justice and International Law, a human rights group in San José, Costa Rica.

Emily Carey ('70) is a clinical psychologist with a 15 y.o. daughter (a Visual Arts major at The Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Massachusetts, where former UNC faculty member Jessie Schell has been directing the Creative Writing Program.) One of Emily's poems won an Honorable Mention in national competition sponsored by the Newburyport Art Association and another was published in the Summer 2003 issue of Harvard Magazine.

Oliver Carter III ('01) began NYU Law School in August 2003.

Dorrie Casey ('78) recently performed with Florence Peacock and The Theatre Group: Shakespeare and Originals, a program of songs set to Shakespeare texts, at the Institute for Arts and Humanities at UNC.

Peter Cashwell ('85) and Kelly Dalton ('85) are still happily married after 17 years. They recently toured Italy to research a novel on which they are collaborating. His book, The Verb 'To Bird' came out in April, was named a Barnes & Noble "Discover" Selection, a Booksense "76" pick, and earned him a guest spot on Martha Stewart Living T.V. He's also co-writing the "Loose Canons" column in The Readerville Journal. Kelly has recently published poetry in the online magazine Stickman Reviews, and a short story, "The Whispering Dictionary" and several reviews for The Readerville Journal.

Wayla Chambo ('03) began the MFA program in music at the California Institute of the Arts.

Jennifer Cleland Green ('88) had her fourth son with husband Stan ('93) who is an associate attorney in the Environmental Law department at Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice. Jennifer is at home with the boys and "probably won't surface for several years!"

Blake Crouch ('00) 's first novel, Desert Places will be published in January, '04. Pat Conroy calls it "terrific but harrowing...deeply disturbing and troubling but hard to put down. In the end, Mr. Crouch's book reminded me of a whacked out combination of Stephen King and Cormac McCarthy."

John Crutchfield ('94) is spending 2003/2004 on a faculty exchange in Karlsruhe, Germany. Two of his new plays are currently in workshop: "Songs of Robert" and "Speak of the Devil."

Tom Daley ('75) has poems published in recent and forthcoming issues of Prairie Schooner, Yemasee, Archipelago, and Salamander.

Jason Dowdle ('80) is currently shooting and co-directing a television documentary on Dr. Richard Florida and his rise to notoriety with the publication of his book The Rise of The Creative Class.

Wade Downey ('97) finishes his Ph.D studies in organic chemistry this fall, and will begin post-doc study at MIT.

Jonathan Farmer ('96) is editor of a new journal At Length which publishes one long poem and one long story each quarter. www.atlengthmag.com

Ben Fountain ('80) had short stories in the Winter 2003 issue of Southwest Review, and the Fall 2003 issue of Zoetrope. He received a Pushcart Prize and the 2002 Texas Institute of Letters Short Story Award for a story published in the Spring 2002 issue of Zoetrope.

Joy Fowler ('73) drove her pony and wagon across the state in the Ohio Bicentennial Wagon Train. Her forthcoming work "Happy Birthday, Beautiful Ohio!" will be text produced live with the Cincinnati Pops and broadcast nationally.
Kerri French (’03) travelled through Europe this summer on a Phillips travel scholarship. She has work forthcoming in the fall issue of Crucible.

Shana Fulton (’98) graduated from Columbia Law School in 2001 and is now practicing law in Washington, DC at Williams & Connolly, while continuing to write.

Julie Funderburk (’92) is an instructor for the English Department at Queens University of Charlotte, NC. Recent work appears in The Louisville Review (Fall ‘02), and new work is forthcoming in Ploughshares (Dec. ’03 Emerging Writers’ issue) and West Branch (Spring ’04).

Ann Gerhardt (’76) is married, with two daughters, aged 22 and 17, and is a medical education director.

Mel Gilles (’95) is a postulant for the Episcopal clergy and entered the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, in September. Her husband, Mathew Gross (’93) is the Director of Internet Communications for the Howard Dean Presidential campaign in Burlington, VT. In February ‘03, the University of Arizona Press published The Glen Canyon Reader. Matt writes daily at www.blogforamerica.com.

Franklin Golden (’99) started at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta this past June.

Justin Greene (’02) was married in June and is attending law school this fall.

Tamara Hall Grogan (’84) is teaching French and Women’s Studies at Greenfield (MA) H.S. Her daughter is a musical theatre and Red Sox fan who read the latest Harry Potter in one day. Her book, Boys and Girls Together will be published in November 2003 for the Northeast Foundation for Children.

Melissa Hardy (’74) and her husband received Top Amateur Couple in the Newcomers Division, Can-Am DanceSport Competition in Toronto, 2003. Her story “Aquíero” published in Atlantic Monthly December, 2002, is to be republished in Year’s Best Horror and Fantasy Anthology.

Mark Harrison (’89) responded simply “Chainsaw!” to our request for news.

Mimi Herman (’85) is an adjunct faculty member for Lesley University’s Masters in Education Creative Arts in Learning Program, and is Director of Meredith College’s Summer Arts Integration Institute. She recently published the story “Taylor Quarry” in Shenandoah.

Rachel Hockfield (’03) is in the Peace Corps in Belize until August 2005.

Culley Holderfield (’96) and his wife have been travelling in Africa and Europe since they quit their jobs in February. They’ve taught English in Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where he did research for a novel. In Europe, they will be working on organic farms as part of the WWOOF program. In December, a book he co-wrote, A History of West Asheville, will be published by The West Asheville History Project.

Michael Delphy Hunt (’75) has published his second book, Perfect Turkeys and Other Amusing Tales. He is a local government attorney in Florida, where he lives with his wife and children.

Etta Jensen (’97) is employed as a Product Support Analyst at AMVESCAP Retirement, and is enjoying her nieces, Morgan & Grace.

Harmony Johnson (’03) began her career as a journalist in July as the “Cops and Courts” reporter for the Times-News in Hendersonville, NC.

Courtney Jones (’01)’s story “Irregularities” has been published in the anthology Best New American Voices 2004.

Raymond Jones (’87) completed his PhD at the University of Virginia, and is Director of Social Studies Education at Wake Forest University.

Seth Katz (’84) is Coordinator of the Composition Program at Bradley University in Peoria, IL. He writes occasional columns on Judaism for the religion page of the Peoria Journal Star, and would like his children (10, 7, 4) to get together with Tamara Hall (’84)’s 9-year-old to play and share book recommendations.

Elizabeth Kerr (’03) interned with the Levine Museum of the New South, worked at Dean and Deluca, and is now with the Burning Coal theatre in Raleigh through a paid internship with the NC Arts Council.

Dan Kois (’96) has joined Regal Literary Inc. in NYC, as an associate agent.

Amy Kostrewa (’99) bought her first home in Hillsborough, NC, and lobbied to begin a creative writing course at the high school where she teaches. She won, and is teaching the course for ’03/’04.

Dee Langston (’95) is editor of Water Colors magazine in Elizabeth City, NC.

Jennifer Layton (’91) is still happily single, was recently promoted to Review Editor/Coordinator at Indie-music.com, and contributes to a new national start-up magazine, Independent Musician, launched during the summer of ’03.

Cynthia (Cindy Lou) Levy (’73) was the Gold Medal, First Place winner of the Pirate’s Alley Faulkner Society’s 2002 Words & Music essay contest, judged by Andrei Codrescu. Her winning entry will be published December ’03 in The Double Dealer Redux.

George Manis (’01) has been attending Boston College Law School.

Stephen March (’73) is an associate professor at Elizabeth City State University. His novella, Armadillo (of which an excerpt first appeared in Carolina Quarterly) won the Texas Review Press Prize in the Novella for 2002, and was published in August. His story “Violets” was published in the 2002 Rio Grande Review.

Tatiana Margitic (’99) received her BFA in dance from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA, in 2002. She’s now living in New York, teaching dance, waiting tables, and performing.

Matthew Martin (’03) started a MA in Education program at William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with a concentration in secondary social studies.
Alane Salierno Mason (‘86) launched www.wordswithoutborders.org, the online magazine for international literature in translation.

Brendan Mathews (‘91) is attending the University of Virginia.

Nathan McClintock (‘96) is finishing up an M.S. in Sustainable Agriculture at NCSU and will be working in Senegal with the Rodale Institute this fall, interviewing farmers, and making compost, then off to Haiti next year.

Molly McNeill Kiser (‘89) is expecting twins in November. She currently works as a therapist at Wake County Mental Health.

Chandler McRee (‘87) is completing his MFA in Creative Nonfiction at Queens University of Charlotte. His “Better Livin’ Through Television” was published in Spring ‘03 issue of Ray’s Road Review.

Jane (Beth) Meekins Lucas (‘89) taught American Literature after WWII this past summer.

Philip Memmer (‘93) directs the Downtown Writer’s Center, a member of the YMCA National Writer’s Voice, and has new work in Poetry, Natural Bridge, and Mid-American Review. His first book of poems, Sweetheart, Baby, Darling, will appear in late 2004 from Word Press. Other poems forthcoming in Kestrel, South Carolina Review, and Connecticut Review.

Lydia Millet (‘90) was married in April 2003 and writes full time. Her novel My Happy Life was published by Henry Holt in 2002, and won the 2003 PEN USA Literary award.

David Naquin (‘70) and his wife celebrated 33 years of marriage in ‘03; their elder daughter is a junior at Swarthmore, the younger a junior in high school. He writes haiku and short poems as gifts to commemorate specific events.

Emily Nelson Maher (‘01) married Todd Maher in 2002 and is currently in her third year of medical school at Johns Hopkins.

Katherine Nelson (‘03) spent time this summer in Paris, France, studying film and documentary production. She’s living in New York, interning with a publishing company.

Sara Noffsinger (‘02) spent two months living in Barcelona, Spain sharpening her language skills and immersing herself in the culture. Now working, applying to MFA programs, and has read at local literary events.

Kimberly O’Connor (‘01) graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill’s Masters in Teaching program in June 2003.

Jenny Offill (‘90) is on the faculty of the low-residency MFA program at Queens University in Charlotte. She gave a reading from her 1999 novel Last Things and visited with Creative Writing students at UNC last spring.

Benjamin Ousley (‘96) arrived in January ‘03 at the American Consulate in Nogales, AZ as chief of consular section, is married to Angel, nee Naseman (‘97), and has two daughters.


Stephanie Peck Dunlap (‘99) was recently hired as news reporter for Cincinnati’s alternative weekly paper, CityBeat.

Anna Peepers (‘97) and her husband Lincoln Hudson, a British actor, live in London, where she works for Disney’s Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre as a Wardrobe Assistant Deputy.

Duncan Pittman (‘03) spent the summer working for Reality Central Network, at Artisan Entertainment in LA, assisted a free-lance production designer, and worked as a freelance journalist for the Jasper Sun Times in S.C.

Katie Reklis (‘01) reports that she is happily pursuing a Master of Arts in Religion at Yale Divinity School and preparing for Ph.D. work next fall.

Julia Ridley Smith (‘94) and Glenn Perkins (‘93) celebrated their 7th anniversary with no sign of the itch. Glenn has had articles in Our State and American Style, while Julia has a story coming out in a Christmas anthology from Algonquin Books.

Nina Riggs (‘99) has been selected as the new Poetry Editor at the Greensboro Review, and has a poem forthcoming this fall in Southern Review.

Kate Rindfleisch McGrath (‘85) has two girls, aged 4 and 1, doing well, still producing and writing plays, and teaching with the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival.

Steve Roberts (‘84) is a bit actor in television and film. He has two poems published, “Innocence/Inference” in Cairn, and “The Scientist” in Asheville Poetry Review.

Lisa Robinson Bailey works as the Production Director for the North Carolina Writers’ Network.

Warren Rochelle (‘77)’s short story, “The Golden Boy” was published in The Silver Gryphon, an anthology published by Golden Gryphon Press in May, ‘03; his poem, “For Ellen,” in the ‘02 Crucible; an essay in Autumn ‘02 issue of Foundation, a British journal of science fiction criticism. His second novel, Harvest of Changeings, set in the Chapel Hill area, has been accepted for publication in ‘05.

Wendy Rountree (‘94) is an assistant professor of English at Salisbury University, and published her first book, Lost Soul, a young adult novel.

Leighann Scroggins Swanson (‘98) is Director of the Annual Fund at Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC. She continues to write for business magazines, with a recent cover article on entrepreneurship in the July ‘03 issue of Ventures Charlotte.
Amy Scruggs Gieske ('99) married Grant Gieske in December of '02 in Gastonia.

Allyson K. Shaffer ('03) is working as an office assistant at the Kenan-Flagler School of Business, UNC.

Dave Shaw ('88) lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, daughter and new son. He is the publications director for UNC's Center for the Study of the American South. His collection of stories, Here Comes The Roar, won the Katherine Anne Porter Prize, and will be published this December. His fiction has appeared in magazines and anthologies in the U.S. and abroad; he's currently completing a novel.

Robert Sherman III ('89) and his wife Andrea welcomed their first child in February of 2003. Rob is working in corporate communications for IBM, writing for the chairman and CEO. Previously, he was head writer for Moneyline on CNN.

Naree Sinthusek ('01) started the M.A. program in English at NYU this fall.

Laura Smyth ('93) and Stephen Wells('91) have relocated to Washington, D.C., where they live with two dogs and a cat.

Jeb Stuart ('78) has a motion picture script "Burn Rate" at Columbia Pictures.

Melanie Sumner ('86) has a five year old daughter and year old son. She'll be taking an REI Adventure trip to Belize in December, has a story in After O'Connor anthology, was Writer in Residence at Southern Women's Writing Conference, and Visiting Writer at both Berry College and Shorter College.

Mark Sutton ('96) wishes he had time to travel, and had an essay on teaching academic research to adult students accepted by the online journal, Lore.

Adam Tarleton ('01) is engaged to Mellissa Robb with a wedding planned for May of '04. He's a lecturer in the English department at UNC-Greensboro for '03-'04, and has poems in Poet Lore and Goodfoot, reviews in Carolina Quarterly and International Poetry Review.


Jessie Tucker Mitchell ('02) married in June '02, and started the MFA Program in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College in Montpelier. She had book reviews in Our State.

Derek Vanderpool ('03) planned to work as a teaching assistant in France in an elementary or high school English class.

Matt Vollmer ('96) has been published in Paris Review and Tin House, a story forthcoming in Virginia Quarterly Review, and a novel being shopped around in NY.

Melissa Waldrop (AB '94, MA '95) and her husband have a baby girl, Ashlyn Joy, born last October.

Brandy Warren ('99) is in her second year at Cordozo Law School in NY, and completed a summer internship at the Stanhope Center Media Law Policy Research, in London.

Jack "Jackson" Wheeler ('75) works as a clinical services manager at Tri-Counties Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled in CA. He read at St. Andrew’s College in Laurinburg, NC in 2002, edited solo #6, and has published in The MacGuffin, Rivertalk, and Artlife.

Leslie Williams ('90)'s son is 2", and baby #2 was expected in September. Her poetry manuscript was a finalist in the National Poetry Series 2002, and is currently a finalist for Prairie Schooner's First Book Prize.

Cary Wolfe ('84, MA '86) has been named Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English at Rice University. (Dunlevie was a Rice English undergrad who later founded eBay.)

Susan Wooten Sumner ('94) is the mother of a baby boy, Thomas, born in March of 2003.

Erin Wunker ('01) is finishing her Master's thesis at McGill and is a research assistant for Groupe de Reserche sur Gabrielle Roy through the Quebecoise Literature Department. Her recent work appears in Elk Valley Poetry Quarterly, and Fernie BC; and recent papers presented at a McGill conference, and the University of London's Autobiographical conference.

Jennifer Young ('98) completed her MA in the Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing with distinction from Cardiff University in Sept 2002. She is currently a first year PhD student in Creative and Critical Writing at Cardiff University. She has published poetry in Ore (www.ccf.ac.uk/encap/creativewriting/ore/index.html) and book reviews in the British Journal of Canadian Studies and BMa: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review. She also works part-time as the administrative assistant to Creative Writing at Cardiff University.

Tom Young ('84) changed careers after 11 years with the Associated Press to become an airline pilot. He's published short stories and essays in The Christian Science Monitor, AP News Features, and other publications, and is working on the publication of his war novel.

Katie Zimmerman ('02) is living in NYC, working for RED Distribution / Sony.

Susan Zimmerman ('73)'s 7 Keys to Comprehension, a self-help and aspirational book for parents trying to increase their children's reading levels, has gone into a second printing after six weeks, and is a finalist for the Colorado Book Award.

IN MEMORIAM

Frampton Durban
1918-2003

Talmadge Moose
1933-2003

Joshua Seay
1969-2003

Chapter & Verse - 15
“Juxtaposed with the Apollonian dignity of the town was an underside, frenzied, eccentric, and passionate. It existed because, as in all college towns, most of the inhabitants were young and people were fervent in their ideas and tried to live them.”

—Daphne Athas, from *Entering Ephesus*