Chapter & Verse

Newsletter of the Creative Writing Program at UNC-Chapel Hill

HIGHLIGHTS
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM 1998-1999

By Marianne Gingher
Director

Writing this report at the end of a supremely busy year, with 40 student short story revisions left to read and mark before closing my grade book for the semester, I ought to feel frazzled. Why am I still smiling? Because it seems to me that our Creative Writing Program has never felt more robust. Highlights of the year included ongoing support from the Truman Capote Trust which provided a merit scholarship award of $5,000 to an outstanding young fiction writer, the establishment of a substantial endowment fund by Mary Friday (’78) for the purpose of awarding the annual Willie Lavonse Moore Prize in creative non-fiction (named after a beloved classmate of Ms. Friday’s), a visit by poet Erica Funkhouser to give our annual Blanche Armfield Poetry reading, a lively, inspiring week of readings and poetry workshops lead by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Wilbur who joined us in April as this year’s Morgan Writer in Residence, impromptu lectures and discussion with students about writing for television and film by Michael Piller, writer and producer of television’s “Star Trek” series, and by writers for Fox Network’s animated hit “King of the Hill,” John Altschuler and Dave Krinsky, and an invigorating line-up of North Carolina authors who read for the Second Sunday series, sponsored by our Program, the North Caroliniana Society and the North Carolina Collection in Wilson Library.

An expanding curriculum enabled us to hire five wonderful adjunct faculty. Tim Mizelle, a former Morehead scholar and student in our writing program, taught fall term, along with our esteemed former director, Max Steele. Happily we were able to lure Sarah Dessen back to teach fiction and Mike Chitwood to teach poetry. Spring semester, Chapel Hill poet Peggy Rabb taught an intermediate poetry workshop. Counting all our regular folks, we faculty numbered a very lucky 13! We teach more than 250 students any given semester and offer approximately 15 courses each term, not counting independent study offerings. Ruth Moose’s new course in Writing for Children (English 39) has become so popular that this spring she taught five independent study students in an effort to accommodate the overflow. Our other attractive new course (35N, Creative Non-Fiction) was taught this spring by Bland Simpson and emphasized writing about the natural world. The Program helped to sponsor a class trip to Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

FACULTY

Space does not permit me to document our faculty’s every achievement, but I will spotlight a few triumphs here. Alan Shapiro, on leave to study at the National Humanities Center, was awarded this year’s Folger Library Award for Poetry. Michael McFee continued to host the Second Sunday Reading series, published new work in a number of journals, including Hudson Review, Kenyon Review, and Poetry, and taught the Senior Honors Poetry class which brainstormed “Poets in Transit,” a project that placarded Chapel Hill city buses with copies of the students’ original poetry. Jim Seay gave poetry readings from Mississippi to New York and his work appeared in new anthologies published by David Godine and Soho Press. Daphne Athas
Chappell Scholarship for the year 1999-2000 is Jessie Tucker, a sophomore from Stokes County. This past summer, Jessie worked as an intern at John F. Blair Publishers in Winston-Salem.

The Truman Capote Award, a $5,000 scholarship given to a rising senior Creative Writing minor who writes fiction, was awarded for the upcoming year to Elizabeth Lassiter of Sunbury, NC. The award is made possible by the Truman Capote Trust, in honor of the late writer.

Dr. Charles B. Collins of Rockingham has made a $25,000 gift to endow a needs-based scholarship for a deserving student in the creative writing program. The annual award amount, yet to be determined, will be named in honor of Dr. Collins’ wife, Angela Collins, for her special interest in creative writing. The first recipients of the Angela Collins Award will be selected during the coming year.

POETRY RIDES WITH THE PEOPLE

As a responsible citizen taking public transit home after a hard day, would you rather read an ad currently found in New York subways, for a dermatologist named Dr. Zitmor? Or, would you prefer “First Infatuation” by Holly Phillips of Charlotte, a senior honors poetry student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

Orion, the seven-studded constellation, lit my teen-age winter nights, still, God-like, fitted in the sky. He was my first true love: the cold, unflinching body grafted of fire, specks of light that perfectly formed a man. I filled in his skin in my mind on the slate of nightsky and waited each evening for his appearance to grant me sleep, imprinting my days with hope for the strength of boys and men to come, though I somehow knew already such comfort would be seasonal and often distant.

During April, this poem and those of Phillips’ seven classmates in Michael McFee’s senior honors poetry class were displayed inside Chapel Hill Transit buses in spaces usually occupied by ads. Similar to promotion by the Poetry Society of America, the students’ project, “Poets in Transit,” may have been the only one of its kind nationwide conceived and implemented by college students.

The display of the Carolina students’ poems, also posted in the Chapel Hill Public Library, coincided with National Poetry Month.

But the young poets aren’t interested in firsts, national ties or plaudits. Their 24-inch by 11-inch blue placards, circulating in 54 buses on all 15 routes, bear only poems, authors’ names and “Poets in Transit.”

“We didn’t want to emphasize students or the university,” said student Nina Riggs of Beaufort, N.C., who designed and printed the placards with financial help from UNC-CH’s creative writing program. “The idea was to have the poems speak. Poetry is an art form that’s not widely appreciated, so we welcome an opportunity to make it available to the world around us and make it free.”

So much so that the students all planned to chip in on the transit system’s regular $68 per month ad fee. When he learned about that, transit director Bob Godding declared their money no good.

“We’ll put them up free as a public service,” he said, adding that he hoped the system’s 15,000 to 16,000 daily riders enjoyed them.

Their teacher, poet and associate English professor Michael McFee, said he did nothing to trigger the students’ verve: “They are picking the poems, doing it all. I’m just saying, ‘Go for it.’ There’s never been anything like this before.”

He did suggest that they consider ways to share their poems. Other classes have collected them in anthologies. But this group had been fascinated by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky’s talk at UNC-CH in October 1997, in which he advocated bringing poetry to the public.
with Honors in Creative Writing, as well:

David Holmes Alexander
Mary Kristine Bryson
Evangeline Christie
Stephanie Peck Dunlap
Matthew Brewer Ezzell
Alison Leigh Fischer
Joy Renee Grieco
Tyrell Carol Haberkorn
Kelley Kristine Harris
Daryl Lennon Houston
Amy Kristen Kostrewa
Sara Jane Majka
Tatiana Margitic
Luke Anthony Meisner
Catherine Tift Merritt
Alicia Rebecca Myers
Nina Ellen Riggs
Holly C einwen Phillips
Brandyne Shawne Warren

The recipient of the Truman Capote Scholarship for 1999-2000 is Elizabeth Lassiter of Sunbury, North Carolina.

If we had a student award for Service to the Creative Writing Program it would go, hands down, to Jessie Tucker, a freshman creative writing minor from Stokes County, who appeared in my office September '98 volunteering to pitch in any way we deemed useful. She’s kept our bulletin board announcements current, distributed fliers, assisted in an extensive mailing we did to fund raise for the Doris Betts Professorship, and is helping with the production of our newsletter, Chapter & Verse. Her cheerful assistance has been such a blessing that any day we expect her to sprout wings and fly away. During the summer she interned at John F. Blair Publishers in Winston-Salem.

Contributions to the Doris Betts Distinguished Professorship in Creative Writing have brought us to within close reach of a million dollar goal. The initial commitment by philanthropist Ben M. Jones III (B.A., 1950) of $334,000 has inspired the generosity of many former Writing Program Alumni and friends of the Program to honor Doris and the high standards of teaching that she exemplifies with gifts to this fund. In addition to establishing a chaired professorship in Creative Writing, money raised will be used to support enrichment opportunities for faculty and students. Contributions should be sent, earmarked for the Doris Betts Professorship or Doris Betts Fund to: Dennis Cross, the Arts and Sciences Foundation, CB#6115, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.

Other gifts to Creative Writing this year included contributions from our loyal patrons, Ben and Anne Bolch, Dr. Alexander Rankin, and Dr. Charles B. Collins of Rockingham who has established a needs-based scholarship for students in creative writing that we will begin to administer in 2000. We are excited about the potential sparked by such generosity, and we are ever grateful. Not only do such gifts imply the donor’s endorsement of what we do here, but they allow us to make significant improvements in what is arguably one of the strongest undergraduate programs in creative writing in this country.

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM OFFERS FOUR SPECIAL AWARDS

In addition to its poetry and fiction prizes, the year 2000 will see the addition of a substantial prize for non-fiction writing. The Willie Lavonsa Moore Award for Creative Non-Fiction has been created by a generous gift from Mary Friday (AB '78) in memory of her beloved classmate who had an enduring regard for the English Department and, in particular, the Creative Writing Program. Mr. Moore graduated from UNC, received a law degree from Yale, and was a Professor of Law at the University of Richmond until his death.

A $100,000 gift from Random House Publishers will honor the memory of Wanda Chappell, an esteemed editor there who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UNC, received her law degree from the Law School there and, with ten years at Random House, served as Senior Vice President and Deputy Publisher of the Company before her untimely death. Random House has established an endowment in her name from which an award of up to $5,000 annually will be awarded to a student who is an English Major with a Minor in Creative Writing and an interest in the field of publishing. The first recipient of the Wanda
Chappell Scholarship for the year 1999-2000 is Jessie Tucker, a sophomore from Stokes County. This past summer, Jessie worked as an intern at John F. Blair Publishers in Winston-Salem.

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“Congratulations to the students at Chapel Hill,” Pinsky said when informed of Poets in Transit. “I’m delighted by the project that puts poems in the buses, and I’m proud of any encouragement I may have given the students.”

Excerpt from an article
By L.J. TOLER
UNC-CH News Services

TRUMAN CAPOTE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Elizabeth Lassiter got her inspiration for writing when she was a child, listening to her grandmother telling tales about their hometown of Sunbury.

Lassiter is the 1999 winner of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill creative writing program’s Truman Capote Scholarship, a $5,000 award recognizing promising young writers.

The scholarship was awarded for the first time last year. It was established after the late author Capote created, in his will, The Truman Capote Literary Trust to give prizes for literary criticism and to fund scholarships for young writers.

The trust awarded UNC-CH a sum in December 1997 to enable the creative writing program to offer annual scholarships for three years.

This year, writing faculty nominated three students for the award. Each nominee submitted up to 40 pages of original fiction and a two-page statement on his or her goals as a writing student. English and writing faculty selected Lassiter from the pool of nominees.

“The stories I love the best come from Sunbury, so I submitted three stories in a series I’m working on,” she said.

Though the stories never name Sunbury specifically, their setting is a small Southern town similar to Lassiter’s home. The stories focus on the relationship of an elderly couple and the wife’s life after her husband’s death. Lassiter plans to make the series into a novel.

Lassiter is enrolled in this year’s senior honors creative writing class, taught by UNC-CH English professor and writer Doris Betts.

“We’re all really proud of her,” said novelist and creative writing teacher Bland Simpson, who currently teaches Lassiter. “She is one of the best natural writers that I’ve had the pleasure to know and work with in 17 years of association with this program. She has a lovely touch. She certainly ranks very high in my estimation.”

Lassiter, 21, is a 1996 graduate of Gates County High School. Her parents, Dennis and Barbara Lassiter, and grandmother, Mildred Lassiter, all live in Sunbury.

Other nominees for the Truman Capote Scholarship were Anne Beatty of Greensboro and David St. Clair of Charlotte.

By APRIL SIMUN
UNC-CH News Services
(Simun is a senior journalism and mass communication major from Sumter, S.C.)

DORIS BETTS TO CO-HOST NPR BROADCAST

Beginning October 3, National Public Radio is broadcasting STORYLINES SOUTHEAST, a series of 13 weekly programs on important books by southeastern authors, with Doris Betts of the UNC-Chapel Hill English Department and poet Darrell Stover, Hayti Center, Durham, as co-hosts. The hour-long Sunday afternoon program will feature readings, guest commentators, and call-ins from the listening audience. Similar programs, also sponsored by NPR, the National Institute for the Humanities, the American Library Association, and Barnes & Noble, have already been featured in Montana, the Northwest, and the Southwest, and a series is in the planning stage in California. Public libraries will have discussion guides available for individuals or book groups who want to participate in the series.

Among the authors to be featured, some of whom will appear for interviews, are Lee Smith, Josephine Humphreys, Reynolds Price, and Alice Walker.
In its “Best of the Triangle” Awards (April 7th, 1999) the INDEPENDENT WEEKLY (Durham, NC) named our own Marianne Gingher “Best Director of a Creative Writing Program,” citing Prof. Gingher for “leading with brightness and nurturing sensitivity ... Gingher is well-suited to lead such talent: She keeps the focus on writing and sets a wonderful example for a career in the storytelling arts.”

FACULTY UPDATES

Daphne Athas, whose essay on Reynolds Price’s work and career appeared as the lead commentary review in the December 1998 issue of The World and I, has finished one of two books of memoirs, a book of essays; working title: I Never Dreamed We Had Gone So Far. She spent the month of July in Greece two weeks of which she devoted to studying the Telemachus episode in the Odyssey spent in Pylos.

Doris Betts received an honorary degree from the University of the South and is serving as chancellor of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, while also co-hosting the current National Public Radio series STORYLINES SOUTHEAST.

Sarah Dessen’s novel Someone Like You was chosen as an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year. Her third book, Keeping the Moon has just been published in September.

The independent film based on Marianne Gingher’s short story, “The Hummingbird Kimono” has been selected to be aired again on NC Visions Fifth Anniversary Retrospective Show (primetime, 1999, UNC-TV). A new book of personal narratives is forthcoming from LSU.

Michael McFee just won a Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty at UNC. In the past year, he has published poems and essays in Poetry, Hudson Review, Five Points, and the Southern Literary Journal. He continues to direct the Second Sunday Readings series at Wilson Library, now in its eighth year, which features North Carolina writers.

Ruth Moose won 1st Prize in the ProCreation Short Fiction Competition. She has poems in Yankee, Tar River and The New Review, book reviews in The News and Record. She is President of the North Carolina Writers’ Network, a national organization of 1,800 members.


Alan Shapiro’s new book of poems, The Dead Alive and Busy, will be published by the University of Chicago Press in January 2000. He was the 1999 winner of the O. B. Hardison, Jr., Poetry Prize from the Folger Library, and has just been awarded an Open Society Institute Fellowship.

Bland Simpson, Institute for the Arts and Humanities Chapman Fellow, was given the Governor’s Conservation Communicator of the Year ’98 Award by the NC Wildlife Federation and the Brown-Hudson Award by the NC Folklore Society for his book Into the Sound Country, with photography by Ann Cary Simpson. The Broadway hit Fool Moon, on which Simpson collaborated as a Red Clay Rambler, was presented a Special Tony Award last June in New York.

ALUMNI NEWS

Ruth Akerman-Stolk, ’78, works for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., putting together exhibits and world tours.

Dave Alexander, ’99, is working at the sports desk of the High Point Enterprise.

Hill Allen, ’89, is a criminal defense lawyer at Tharrington Smith in Raleigh.

Ray Allen, ’97, is in television production at Paramount Studios in L.A.

Jim Allred, ’87, is the Systems Engineer at EDS and has completed his third novel So Help Me God.

Robert Arrington, ’72, is practicing law at Moore Stout.
Waddell & Ledford, P.C. in Kingsport, TN. He has published several articles in the *Tennessee Bar Journal*; the most recent is titled “A Lawyer’s Dream, A Client’s Nightmare” (1997).

Mario Baldessari, ’81, is self-employed.

Taylor Ball, ’98, is a free-lance “special effects” producer in Hollywood.

Juana Olga Barrios, ’84, is in the Masters/PhD program at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Depth Psychology.

Amanda Beall, ’90, just had her first screenplay produced as a full-length feature film.

James “Chip” Beam, 86, is employed by Universal Manufacturing at Logistics and is co-owner and artist of the new record label, Oasis Records.

Tessa Blake, ’91, has a documentary feature film, “Five Wives, Three Secretaries and Me,” opening in New York’s Quad Cinema on October 8th, followed by a run in Charlotte, NC at the Manor Theater starting October 15th. It will then go on to a platform release nationwide. For further information and a short synopsis of the film, please go to her website, www.fivewives.com.

John H. Bland, ’90, is an actor and writer in Los Angeles.

Will Blythe, ’79, has edited *Why I Write*, a collection of essays by 24 contemporary writers, with Little Brown. Will was for many years literary editor at *Esquire*, is now a contributing editor to *Harper’s and Mirabella*, and writes for many other magazines. He lives in New York City. Among the essayists are former staffer Lee Smith and Hillsborough neighbor Allan Gurganus.

Suzanne Bolch, ’88, is living in Canada and is a writer/producer of (mostly) children’s/family TV with her biz partner John May. Last year they were supervising producers on the “Journey of Allen Strange” for Nickelodeon in LA. They returned to Toronto to write/produce their own company’s first show, “Our Hero,” for the CBC, as well as to write the pilot for their show “Squonk Tracks” for the Children’s Television Workshop in New York. “Our Hero” is a half-hour series about a 17-year-old girl who writes a zine. “Squonk Tracks” is a half-hour series (half live action/half animation) about a little boy whose notebook doodles take him on animated adventures that help him cope with life in the real world. They’re also developing shows/doing freelance work with Nelvana, Decode, Disney, Nickelodeon and Alliance Atlantis. In the next year they plan to branch out into more adult-oriented programming and to make their second feature film, “Silver.” Suzanne recently married Michael Lyster and they have moved into their first house.

Rick Borston, ’77, is writing in the morning and working as a part-time Mental Health Associate in the afternoons. He has published two novels, *The Great Equalizer* and *Rainbow Rhapsody*, and is looking for a publisher for his third novel *Insane for the Light*.

Lindsay Bowen ’95 and Dana Terebelski ’94 were married March ’99 and are living in New York City.

Josh Boyer, ’94, has gotten his Master’s in Library Science from UNC-Chapel Hill and is a reference librarian for distance learning at D.H. Hill Library at NC State.

Amy Freeman Branson, ’81, is currently teaching homebound students, carpooling, relearning algebra via an 18-year-old, relearning puberty, relerning sibling rivalry...can you see the pattern developing?

Diana Bray, ’98, recently completed a Fulbright Grant in Jamaica, West Indies, where she worked on an environmental education project.

Peter Brinson, ’97, is in film school in Los Angeles and has incorporated his writing “voice” into voice-overs in his films.

Edna Brown, ’75, is a writer/producer in Chesapeake, VA.

Ron Tavara Brown, ’99, has returned from Chile and a two month stint on the Frances Travel Scholarship.

Mary Bryson, ’99, is working as an editorial assistant for the American National Biography project at Oxford University Press in Cary, NC. She won second place earlier this year in Carolina Women’s first annual short fiction contest.

Kate Caldwell, ’99, attended a business class in Tennessee but
plans to go wherever inspiration leads.

Brooke Calton ’97 is doing independent study in creative writing at NC State, working with Angela Davis-Gardner.

Athanasiou Cambanis, ’96, is getting a master’s degree in public and international affairs at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School. He has worked as a correspondent for the Associated Press in Athens, Greece and Jakarta.

Steve Carr, ’86, is teaching media studies at a university with scholarly work published in Cinema Journal and by Cambridge University Press.

Ginger Castle-Broadwell, ’96, is pursuing a teaching certificate in dance at Meredith College.

Emily A. Carey, PhD, ’70, is a Clinical Psychologist, healthcare consultant, and network marketing professional. She has published poetry in journals, essays online, psychology articles in journals, and her PhD dissertation.

Clay Carmichael, ’79, is an author and illustrator. His third picture book Lonesome Bear is at press and will be released in Spring 2000; he is working on his fourth, fifth, and sixth books. Previous publications include Bear at the Beach in English, Dutch and Japanese; and Used-up Bear in English, Dutch, and German, both North-South Books.


Hyonmyong Paul Cho, ’94, was married August 14th in Baltimore.

Jennifer Cleland-Green, ’88, lives in Winston-Salem with her family and works as a freelance writer.

Kelly Hogan Clinch, ’89, is teaching English at Roswell High School in Georgia.

Season Coleman ’98 is the member service representative at the State Employees’ Credit Union, Asheboro, NC.

Robert C. Cone, ’74, is practicing law in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Elizabeth Lewis Corley, ’76, is writing and acting in New York, teaching an adult poetry workshop at Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, and working on a non-fiction book about An Loc. She has published in Hyperion, Carolina Quarterly, and Southern Poetry Review. She has also completed a concert reading of Dear Doggy, a play written with Joseph Megal and adapted from the eponymous novel by Carol Muske Dukes.

Lori Crawford, ’98, is working at UNC-CH’s legal services department.

John R. Crutchfield, ’94, received an MFA in poetry from Cornell in 1997, and has been working since then as playwright and actor in a professional theater company, the Blue Shift Theatre Ensemble, which he co-founded. This summer, he taught philosophy at the North Carolina Governor’s School East, and will soon be returning to Cornell to start work on his dissertation. His poems have appeared in Now and Then, the Carolina Quarterly, and the Pearl River Review. Two of his plays have been produced in North Carolina: “Brother John” in 1994 and “Songs of Robert” in 1998.

Kim Ruhl Deearth, ’89, has after several years as Managing Editor of Dog World Magazine, taken off on her own as a free-lance writer. She has written numerous articles for Dog World, Cats and CatNip magazines, and just finished her first book! It is called Your Rottweiler’s Life and will be available at all major bookstores (plus Amazon.com, etc.) in October. She has been married for seven years to David Deearth, whom she met one weekend in Chapel Hill during her senior year (he was in the 82nd Airborne stationed in Fort Bragg and just in town for a few days with friends). They don’t have any two-legged children at the moment but they do have a Shetland Sheepdog and two cats. For fun (and a little profit!) she trains dogs on the side, teaching puppy preschool, puppy
kindergarten, basic obedience and agility.

William deBuys, '72, had his third book published in September: *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California*.

Birch DeVault, '94, worked as senior culinary recruiter at Johnson & Wales University in Charleston, SC, before moving in August to Denver, CO, to fill the same position at a new campus.

Andrea Brooke Dixon, '96, has finished her thesis for a Creative Writing MA at Johns Hopkins University.

Bryan Donnell, '90, is finishing an MFA in film production at USC, while also shooting films and writing his own.

Jason Dowdle, '80, is currently cinematographer and director for television documentaries and commercials. His publications include numerous trade articles and several poems.

Pam Duncan, Scheduling Coordinator at the Mayes Telecommunications Center of UNC's School of Public Health, has just sold her book *Moon Women* to Bartam Dell in a two-book deal.

Cynthia Eakes, '00, Children’s Lit, won 1st place for juvenile novels at the Southeastern Writers Conference.

Jennifer Eames, '95, is in chiropractic school.

Anthony Enns, '92, is pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Iowa. His writings have appeared in *Kinesis, 100 Words*.


Ali Fischer, '99, is working for a grassroots organization in Washington, D.C.

Ben Fountain, III, '80, had his story “What You Can’t Rise Above” in *The Three Penny Review* and will have the short story “Rêve Haitien” in *Harper’s Magazine* this fall.

Joy Allen Fowler, '73, is currently Department Chair of the Creative Writing Department at the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is in the final stages of earning a PhD from the Union Institute in Children’s Literature and Writing. Among various and sundry publications, she collaborated with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in their Hallowe’en Spooktacular for PBS with a poetic adaptation of Irving’s “Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and she is currently working on a narrative for their upcoming Thanksgiving special, “The First Thanksgiving.”

Jeanne A. Fugate, '97, is a second-year law student at New York University School of Law. She recently returned from working out of the country for an international human rights organization.

Shana L. Fulton, '98, worked for the US Attorney in New York and is now attending law school at Columbia University.

Julie Funderburk, '92, is the production editor at *The Greensboro Review*. At UNC-Greensboro, she has taught poetry writing and serves as the MFA Writing Program Assistant. Her publications include poetry in *Folio and Two Rivers Review*, with work also in *Alaska Quarterly Review* and other literary magazines.

Charles (Chuck) Gamble, '95, is attending Mime/Physical Theatre School in Paris.

Jo Ann Garner-McGraw, '82, works as a psychologist in her own private practice.

Hannah Gill, '99, has an Americorps position in Chapel Hill, working at the Interfaith Council with Hispanic immigrants. She plans to go to graduate school next year in Anthropology.

Melony Gilles, '95, is executive director of the Children’s Justice Center in Moab, Utah.

Steve Godwin, '80, worked for six years in the publications office at Georgetown University and is now a graphic designer in his own design studio.

Stewart Gray, '86, is doing a great deal of songwriting with his brother Caldwell Gray for their band Cravin Dogs. A new album featuring their work should be out by November of 1999.

W. Caldwell Gray, '83, is writing songs and playing in a DC rock outfit Cravin Dogs. He
is the music producer at Preash Records.

James G. (Jim) Greenhill, '88, is working full-time on a nonfiction book tentatively titled Someone Has to Die Tonight about a self-styled teen militia. He has worked for seven years at a daily newspaper in Florida and has published miscellaneous freelance pieces.

Joy Grieco, '99, is in the Master of Arts in Teaching program, in English education, here at UNC-Chapel Hill, and doing her student teaching at East Chapel Hill High School.

Matthew Gross, '93, completed an MS in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana, Missoula, and now lives in Moab, Utah, where he is director of development for an outdoor science school.

Sarina J. Grosswald, EDD, '97, is a consultant in Medical Education developing educational programs for doctors and CME policy development.

Kate Guillette, '98, worked as the sales assistant at the University of North Carolina Press before becoming a student and lecturer in the MA Program in Creative Writing at Boston University.

Tyrell Haberkorn, '99, is a Fulbright Scholar in Thailand, working on Thai-US women’s alliances for sex workers’ rights. Her review of Night Market: Sexual Cultures and the Thai Economic Miracle was published in Thailand’s Thammasat Review.

Peter E. Hapke, '78, is practicing environmental law in Seattle, WA, and working on a nonfiction book about wolves. He would love to see any UNC-CH grads passing through Seattle.

Caroline “Bascha” Harris, '98, is working at Red Hat Software in Durham, NC.

Katherine Harris, '77, is the Associate Director of Clinical Biostatistics for Merck & Co. She has technical and scientific publications only, no fiction.

Laura Harris, '98, worked at Wilson Library on the UNCCH campus for the Triangle Research Libraries Network before returning to California to work as a writer/editor. She is actively focusing her career towards becoming a technical/professional writer and continues writing short stories.

Kate Harrison, '99, who studied Children’s Lit with Ruth Moose, is now with the Children’s Book Division of Harper Collins.

Jennifer Henderson, '95, is employed at the Institute of Government at UNC-CH, working part of the year as office manager in the General Assembly and the rest of the year as an editorial assistant in Chapel Hill.

Daryl Houston, '99, is working as copy editor for a Knoxville newspaper.

Culley Holderfield, '96, has started a trail guide business called “Kudzu Expeditions” in Asheville with his brother. He has completed a work of nonfiction stories titled Teaching Family and is at work on a novel.

Michael “Doc” Hunt, '75, is an attorney and president of Consult First, Inc. He is a former city and county attorney in Florida. He has just finished a novel, Without Shelter.

Margaret Hutton, '90, is working for a corporate communications firm. She received an M.F.A. from George Mason University in 1997 and the faculty awarded her the Heritage Writer position for distinguished fiction. Her work has been published in The South Carolina Review and The Sun.

Sara Andrews Johnston, PhD '91, is a lecturer in the English Department at NC State University. Her publication include several articles in reference books on Southern women poets and two poems in the Summer '99 issue of Carolina Quarterly.

Mittie Jones, '98, has been an editorial assistant with The Oxford American magazine in Oxford, MS, and this past summer attended the NYU Publishing Institute in New York City.

Raymond C. (Ray) Jones, '87, is working on his PhD in Social Studies Education at the University of Virginia.

Nerva Kale, '99, who studied Children’s Lit, won a $500 writing scholarship to Wildacres Writer Conference.

Seth Katz, '84, is a tenured assistant professor of English at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, where he also advises Hillel, the
Jewish Student Organization.
He is editor of the online journal
PIPA: Publications of the Illinois
Philological Association. Recent
publications include articles in
Language and Style, The MLA
Guide to the Job Search, and
Computers and the Humanities.

Susan Katz, has finished her
novel House of Straw and is
living and writing in L.A.

Randall Kenan, ’84, has
published Walking on Water
(Knopf), a nonfiction account
of the thoughts, feelings, and lives
of African Americans in the
post-Civil Rights Era.

Tim Keppel, ’78, is a tenured
professor at Universidad del
Valle in Cali, Colombia, South
America. He teaches literature
and creative writing.

Lily King, ’85, just had her first
child, a girl named Calla. Her
first novel, The Pleasing Hour
was published this September by
the Atlantic Monthly Press.
Library Journal says: “In gentle,
elegant prose, first novelist
King...has taken some unusual
elements and worked them into a
believable, beautifully etched
tale of people who, scarred by
their past, are now trying to get it
right.” A book tour included
stops at Quail Ridge Oct. 18, and
Bulls’ Head Oct. 19. She has
also had stories in Glimmer
Train and Ploughshares.

Johnny Knight, ’96, is a member
of the Playwright’s Network at
Chicago’s Dramatist’s
Workshop. He is acting in
production of a play called “Self
Help” at Cailwick Repertory
Company and frequently
participates in script readings
around the city. He also played
the title role in “Lysistrata” at
Stage Left Theatre and starred in
a short independent film shot in
Evanston, Illinois. His short
play “Be Right Back” was
performed at Heartlande Theatre
in Birmingham, Michigan.

Dave Krinsky, ’85, is a writer
and co-producer of Fox
network’s “King of the Hill.”

Kevin M. Kruse, ’94, is writing
his dissertation for a PhD in
History at Cornell University.
He published an article in the
1997 Journal of Supreme Court
History.

Meryl Kuznetzoff, ’78, works in
public relations for a domestic
violence hotline and shelter in
Cleveland, OH.

Aarre Laakso, ’91, just
completed her PhD in
Philosophy.

Jennifer Layton, ’91, is the
marketing coordinator for
Coastal Physician Services in
Durham. She writes an online
humor column called Jstreet and
has been a featured humorist at
AFunny.com.

Becca Lemon, ’72, is a product
planner and specifications writer
for a software development firm.

Jeff Levine, ’83, works as a
lawyer for the City of Chicago,
doing primarily legislative
drafting of city laws. He has had
several pieces published in the
trade publication Real Estate
Business and two articles in Pen
World Magazine.

Cynthia Betty Levy (a.k.a. Cindy
Lou Levy), ’73, is an assistant
professor at Southern University,
Baton Rouge, LA. She
performed “Two Friends, Two
Views, One Black, One Jew”
with Mona Lisa Saloy at Dillard
University’s 8th Annual National
Black Jewish Conference.

Ryke Longest, ’87, is married
with one son, Patrick, and
working at the Environmental
Division of the Attorney
General’s Office trying to keep
the air from getting worse. He
has published an environmental
law update on case law, N.C. Bar
Foundation.

Jane “Beth” Lucas, née Meekins,
’89, completed in 1998 a two-
year appointment as a Visiting
Assistant Professor at Western
Carolina University. Her most
recent teaching position was at
Barton College where she taught
the January 1999 term. She is
married to Guy Lucas (AB
Journalism ’87), State Editor of
the Winston-Salem Journal.
Publications include a story in
New Delta Review and essays in
Black Warrior Review and the
NC Review of Books.

Sara Majka, ’99, is working at a
school of education in Mashpee,
MA.

Stephen March, ’73, is an
associate professor at Elizabeth
City State University. He has
published short stories in New
Orleans Review, Carolina
Quarterly, Seattle Review,
Tampa Review, William & Mary
Review, and others.

Alane Salerno Mason, ’86, is an
editor at WW Norton &
Company and has published two
recent non-fiction articles: “The
Stones of Jerusalem” in Commonwealth and “Hemingway’s Girl” in Vanity Fair.

Christopher Mason is a corporate lawyer, a partner in the New York City firm of Hunton & Williams.

Nathan McClintock, ’96, worked for a year as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, W. Africa, helping to improve gardening techniques and teaching environmental education to the children.

Beth Boorman McClure, ’90, is the Neonatal Research Network Coordinator at the National Institute of Child Health, NIH. She is editor of her network’s newsletter and has written and produced work-related manuals.

Jill McCorkle, ’80, is teaching in the Bennington MFA Program and living near Boston with her husband and two kids and writing. Recent publications include Final Vinyl Days and she is in progress of writing another book.

Kate Rindfleisch McGrath, ’85, is a playwright and solo-performer, and she is also teaching playwriting and acting to all ages. She recently became the proud mother of Hannah Lillian McGrath. Many of her plays have been produced in the Philadelphia area and nationally, including the recent productions of one-act Lulu & Gigi and Mother’s Day.

Moly McNeill, ’89, works as a clinical social worker at the Wake County Alcohol Treatment Center in Raleigh.

Chandler McRee, ’87, works as a career counselor/trainer for Brevard Job Link in Melbourne, FL, and has published in the Driftwood fiction and poetry anthology.

Sheryl Mebane, ’98, is in grad school at Berkeley. Her honor’s project, “Lady Bird,” won a Pearl Street Publishing grant and she is working on revisions prior to publication.

Luke Meisner, ’99, is working in Bangladesh for a year and plans to return to Chapel Hill to attend law school.

Philip Memmer, ’93, is editing at Two Rivers Review. He has published in Poetry, Southern Poetry Review, Greensboro Review, Northeast Corridor, Folio, Lullwater Review, Brooklyn Review.

Melissa Milios, ’98, lives in Austin, Texas, and is working for a newspaper.

Ruth Mitchener is a district manager for Black & Decker in Wilmington, NC.

Becky Green Morphus, ’97, is happily married and currently enrolled as a graduate student at UNC-CH in Journalism.

Alec Morrison, ’98, is working for Sports Illustrated magazine mainly doing research, but occasionally writing a brief story and writing fiction in his spare time.

Julie Abbot Murphy, ’80, is raising three small children.


David Nelson, ’86, is editor of Living Blues Magazine.

Christina Nifong, ’92, is living in Durham and is now the Durham features writer for The News and Observer.

Jenny Offill, ’90, lives in Brooklyn as a freelance writer. Her novel Last Things was published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in April 1999.

Jaret Olson-Roberts, ’86, is the computer-assisted reporting coordinator for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, a daily newspaper in the Twin Cities.

Benjamin Ousley, ’96, is a Foreign Service officer working for the United States Consulate in Hermosillo, Mexico. He began working in the State Department in 1998 after a year and a half with City Search in the Triangle.

Mary Moore Parham, ’94, is in Chapel Hill working on the MSW part of her JD/MSW — so people can talk about their feelings or their legal problems or their feelings about their legal problems. She won the Whittier National Juvenile Moot Court Competition and came in second for best oralist of this year in California.

Margaret Hundley Parker has just received her MFA from Sarah Lawrence. She is currently teaching, through Teachers & Writers
Collaborative, in the New York public schools.

Michael Parker, '84, is an associate professor in the Graduate Writing Program at UNCG. He participated in the '97 University of Florida Literary Festival with Grace Paley and Richard Wilbur. His novel The Meek Don't Want It will soon be released from Avon/Bard.

Martha Payne is living with her husband, Houston, and four children in Atlanta.

Tony Peacock, '84, is doing commentaries on WUNC-FM, and, as winner of the National Hollerin’ Contest, Spivey's Corner, NC, he recently appeared on CBS's Letterman show.

Holly Phillips, '99, is working at UNC Press.

Sally Pont, '86, recently published a book with Harcourt Brace called “Finding Their Stride: A team of Young Runners Races to the Finish.”

Chris Potter, '72, runs a design firm with his wife. He published The Harvard Graphics Design Companion.

Margaret Rabb, '74, is the art director and graphic designer for a multimedia studio in Chapel Hill. She spent time as an artist-in-residence at the Headlands Art Center in Sausalito, CA, and taught a writing workshop at UNC-CH during the spring semester of 1999. Her publications include a chapbook, Figments of the Firmament, which won the Harperprints Poetry Chapbook Award. Her book Granite Dives will be released by New Issue Press at the University of Michigan in Spring of 2000.

Amelia Rasmus, '98, has most recently been working for Woman magazine in the Triangle.

R. Alex Rankin, '77, is the owner of Upson Downs Farm, where he works with thoroughbred horse breeding and racing. He is working on poems and short stories.


Lee Roberts, '90, worked as a feature writer for the Wilmington Morning Star before deciding to become a freelance writer and stay home with his daughter Emily. He now lives in St. Paul, MN.

Stephen Morris Roberts, '84, is acting and auditioning for films. He served as an extra for “28 Days,” which was shot in Asheville and Wilmington. His poetry was published in July 1999 in an anthology titled A Space Inside a Space by St. Andrews College Press.

Linda Robertson, '83, is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Her work has appeared in the anthologies Best American Sportswriting and 20th Century Treasury of Sports.

Warren Rochelle, '77, is an assistant professor of English at Limestone College. His publications include articles in the Spring 1999 issue of Orbital


Barbara Earnhardt Rohde, '76, is a psychotherapist in a private practice, interweaving psychotherapy, hypnosis, regression therapy, and energy healing. She still writes poems in her free time.

David Rowell, '89, is the executive editor of Doubletake magazine.

Cynthia W. Satterfield, '91, is working in historic preservation and for a fine crafts gallery in the Triangle area.

Dar Schwankl, '96, volunteered for two years in Belize before returning to Statesville to teach borderline personality children how to read poetry.

Leighanne Scroggins, '98, is working at a bank in Charlotte.

Dave Shaw, '88, is the managing editor of Southern Culture and working on a novel. He has published in The Southern Anthology, Best American Mystery Stories, Literal Latte, The Quarterly, Southern Exposure, Carolina Quarterly, Stand Magazine, and others throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Sherry Shaw '92, now living in Gastonia, has been awarded an NC Arts Council Writer's Fellowship. She works in advertising and public relations
Andrew Snee, ’91, is assistant editor of The Sun.
Jeb Stuart, ’78, is a motion picture screenwriter and director. His writing credits include “Die Hard” (1987); “Another 48 Hours” (1990); “The Fugitive” (1995); “Just Cause” (1995); “Fire Down Below” (1997); “Switchback” (1998).

Susie Wooten Sumner, ’94, graduated from MBA School and will be working in the marketing group of IBM.
Mark Sutton, ’96, is in the PhD program at the University of South Carolina. He is teaching various writing classes. He has a novel in progress and has joined the South Carolina Writers’ Workshop.

John Svarlien, ’76, teaches classics at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY.

John C. Sykes, III, ’88, received his M.A. from the University of Alabama in 1996 and is currently a graduate student at Louisiana State University.

Ron Tannor, ’76, has published stories recently in The Iowa Review, New Letters, The Literary Review and Speak. His most recent awards include first prize in the 1996 New Letters literary competition; a 1997 Maryland Arts Council grant for his work in short fiction; and a 1998 Charles Angoff Award from The Literary Review for best contribution to that magazine in the 1997-98 publishing year. He teaches creative writing at Loyola College, in Baltimore, Maryland, where he is chair of the Writing & Media Department.

Lily Thayer, ’98, is working in development at Center Stage, a non-profit regional theater in Baltimore.

Dana Terebelski ’94 and Lindsay Bowen ’95 were married March ’99 and are living in New York City.

Matt Volmer, ’96, who finished his MA in Writing at NC State will be teaching this coming year at Union College in Massachusetts.

Melissa Joy Waldrop-Tolbert, ’94, teaches students with learning disabilities in Chapel Hill and writes high-low reading materials for her students. She married Rob Tolbert on June 19, 1999.

Jim Wann, ’70, had his musical “The Great Unknown” produced by the Univ. of Oklahoma fall ’98; his show “The People Vs. Mona” was presented Feb. ’99 at the ASCAP-Disney Musical Theatre Workshop (LA) and in May ’99 at the Berkshire Theatre Festival.

Maria Weinrich, ’94, married in March and is expecting a baby. She works at a local independent newspaper.

Stephen Wells, ’91, and Laura Smyth, ’93, were married in Chapel Hill in November 1997. They are in the process of moving from California to Boston, where Laura will finish her dissertation in English lit and Stephen will start a masters degree in public policy.
Garret Weyr’s, ’87, next novel will be published by Houghton Mifflin in the coming year. She will be using the name Garret Freymann-Weyr. Her publications include a book, Pretty Girls, 1988, Crown, and article reviews and short stories in Glamour, Christopher Street, Out Magazine, and the Greensboro Review.

Jackson Ray Wheeler, ’75, works as the wellness coordinator at California’s Regional Center System, which provides case management services to people with developmental disabilities. His second book of poetry, titled A Near Country: Poems of Loss, was published in April 1999 by SOLO Press. He is also the co-editor of SOLO, a journal of poetry.


Dawn Wilson ’93 is doing public relations for the Nash County-Rocky Mount (NC) schools.

Heather Wilson-Downey, ’98, works as the manuscript editing assistant in the adult trade department at Houghton Mifflin in Boston.

Tracy D. Wood, ’97, works as a secretary in Hillsborough and is trying to get her short stories published and finishing the typing on her first full novel.

Don Woodard, ’79, is executive producer and head writer for NBC’s comedy “Just Shoot Me.”

Andrea (Andy) Young, ’94, is writing poetry, free-lance editing, taking African dance classes, and learning to play the fiddle. She has published in Texas Observer, New Orleans Review, The Florida Review, Appalachian Heritage, Mesechabe, Shoestring Magazine (internet), mind the gap, and What Have You Lost?, an anthology published by Greenwood Press.

Jennifer Maria Young, ’98, is living and working in London.

Thomas W. Young, ’84, works as a freelance writer. He has published essays in The Christian Science Monitor as well as travel and aviation pieces for AP Newsfeatures.

purchased. All readings are free and open to the public.

Sunday, September 12, 1999
poet Al Maginnies (Raleigh, N.C.)
novelist Judy Goldman
(Charlotte, N.C.).

Sunday, October 10, 1999
poet Gibbons Ruark
(Raleigh native, now at the
University of Delaware)
fiction writer Peter Turchi
(Warren Wilson College,
Swannanoa, N.C.).

Sunday, November 14, 1999
poet Ron Rash (N.C. native,
now of Clemson, S.C.)
novelist Candace Flynt
(Greensboro, N.C.).

[Note: No readings in December or January, due to exams and break.]

Sunday, February 13, 2000
poet Cathy Smith Bowers
(Charlotte, N.C.)
fiction writer Sharyn McCrumb (N.C. native, now a Virginia resident).

[Note: No reading in March, due to spring break.]

Sunday, April 9, 2000
poet Stuart Dischell (UNC-Greensboro)
fiction writer June Spence
(Raleigh native, now a Georgia resident)

Again, please note that—due to exams and breaks—there are no readings scheduled for December 1999, January 2000, or March 2000.

For more information, call coordinator Michael McFee at (919) 962-3461.
Russell Banks is next spring’s Morgan Family Writer-in-Residence

New Englander Russell Banks, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill who edited the literary magazine Lillabulero while here in the 1960s, returns to Carolina returns to Carolina April 3-7, 2000, as next spring’s Morgan Family Writer-in-Residence.

Mr. Banks, whose fiction includes Continental Drift, The Sweet Hereafter and Affliction, has won numerous prizes and awards for his work, among them a Guggenheim, an NEA Fellowship, The John Dos Passos Award, and the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The feature film adaptation of his novel The Sweet Hereafter took the Grand Prix at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival. He divides his time between teaching creative writing at Princeton University as the Howard G. B. Clark Professor in the Humanities, and living in upstate New York.

This is the seventh year of Allen and Musette Morgan’s generous sponsorship of the Morgan Family Writer-in-Residence Program. Distinguished guests thus far have been: Richard Wilbur, Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Richard Ford, Beth Henley, Annie Dillard, and Shelby Foote.

Do Tell!

Your response to our query-postcard mailing earlier this year was terrific. Please do tell us what you’re up to next, and please let us know where other alumni are and what they’re about. We at the Creative Writing Program take great pride in your accomplishments, and we love to spread the word.

--Marianne Gingher (919) 962-0468 mbging@email.unc.edu

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