EDOUARD MOROT-SIR VISITING PROFESSOR

It was our good fortune to have Randall Kenan as a member of the faculty in the Creative Writing Program during part of the year. Randall, who grew up in Chinquapin, NC, and graduated from UNC-CH in 1985 with honors in creative writing, was Edouard Morot-Sir Visiting Professor during the spring semester. He published his first book of fiction, *A Visitation of Spirits*, in 1989. His next book, *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*, was published in 1992 and won a Lambda Book Award and was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction. He has worked as an editor at Knopf, taught at Columbia, and is now on the faculty at Sarah Lawrence. His current work-in-progress is *Walking on Water: A Journey into African America*.

DOORIS SMITH WILLIAMS PRIZE

We were pleased to institute a new award this year under the banner of The Academy of American Poets University and College Poetry Prize Program: The Doris Smith Williams Prize. This prize is made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Ann W. Burrus of Richmond, Virginia, in honor of her mother. The winner of the first Doris Smith Williams Prize was Brian Alan Blanchfield, an Asian Studies major from Charlotte. Brian was awarded highest honors in Creative Writing.

2ND SUNDAY READINGS

The 2nd Sunday Reading series, coordinated by Doris Betts and co-sponsored by the Caroliniana Society and the NC Collection of Wilson Library, featured readings by the following: James Applewhite, Sallie Buckner, Michael Chitwood, Elizabeth Cox, Kaye Gibbons, Jim Grimsley, John Justice, Randall Kenan, Lenard Moore, Rebecca Newton, Howard Owen, Michael Parker, Reynolds Price, Alan Shapiro, and John Welter.


STUDENT PRIZES 1994-95

The Robert B. House Memorial Prize in Poetry was awarded to Kathryn Mae Benedict. In fiction the Louis B. Rubin, Jr. Prize was awarded to William Arthur Conescu, the Max Steele Award to
Dee Ann Langston, and the George B. Wynne Award to Susannah Joy Felts.

**BLANCHE ARMFIELD POETRY SERIES**

Charles Wright was the featured poet for our 7th annual Blanche Armfield Poetry Series program. Mr. Wright won the National Book Award in 1983 and is currently Souder Family Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He was recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Miss Armfield, who usually journeys by train from her home in Arlington, Virginia, to attend the readings, was unable to come this year. She writes us that she very much regrets having to miss Mr. Wright's reading and hopes to be able to attend next year.

Also the Creative Writing Program co-sponsored (with the Association of Graduate English Students) a poetry reading by Philip Levine. It was announced shortly after Mr. Levine's visit that he had won the 1995 Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

**THANKS TO DONORS**

We offer our sincere thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Ben W. Bolch of Memphis, Tennessee, and to Ms. Shirley O'Keefe of Chapel Hill for generous donations to our Gift Fund. Dr. and Mrs. Bolch, who have made donations in past years as well, are the parents of Suzanne Bolch ('88). Ms. O'Keefe was inspired to contribute to our program after hearing presentations from Doris Betts and Bland Simpson at a Chancellor's Council event. Our Gift Fund makes possible such projects as this newsletter and additional lectures and readings for our students.

**ARTS & SCIENCES FOUNDATION GRANTS**

The Creative Writing Program was awarded two grants totaling $5000 this spring. The Arts and Sciences Foundation selected a proposal written by Doris Betts and Michael McFee to create a brochure featuring our program, as well as a proposal from director James Seay to supplement funds for our Blanche Armfield Poetry Series and the 2nd Sunday Readings.

**FACULTY NEWS**

Daphne Athas wrote "A Twinship of Books and Angst" for the column Booking Passage in the Raleigh News and Observer and "Horace Williams was a Dominant Campus Figure" for the column Village Voices in The Chapel Hill News both of them part of the essay memoir of Chapel Hill, a work-in-progress. She also contributed an essay on "Voice, Present Tense, and Tolstoy" for the Writer's Bookshelf column in Writers' Network News May/June 1995 issue. Her reviews of The Green Knight by Iris Murdoch, Women Who Run With the Wolves by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Ph.D., Artificial Respiration by Ricardo Piglia, The Orange Tree by Carlos Ruentes, In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez, have appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer and The Greensboro News and Record.


Athes was appointed a member of the Carolina Speakers' Bureau in December. She was featured in two radio interviews, the first an hour interview by Sabrina Smith on WCHL as part of the Bicentennial Program, the second on the Larry Stone Program on WCHL in February. She has
done readings from her work-in-progress and from her poetry collection, *Crumbs for the Bogeyman* published in 1991, for the UNC Bicentennial, the Harvest Hunger Program, the Senior Center Galleria, the Peer Learning Program, and Elderhostel in Chapel Hill and around the state. She served as emcee for the Creative Writing Program's Second Sunday Reading Series at Wilson Library, introducing Randall Kenan, John Welter, and Sallie Buckman.

In April she organized and moderated the first Creative-Writing-Via-Satellite-teleclass in a live link-up with a class at UNC-Asheville. The focus was on the literature of North Carolina, part of an 8-series program, "A Southern State of Mind," sponsored by the Carolina Speakers Bureau. In March she did a reading and conducted workshops at Elon College, and in April a poetry reading and workshop at Isothermal Community College.

**Doris Betts'** novel *Souls Raised from the Dead* (Knopf) was named to the "best of the year" list by the New York Times and by the American Library Association, at whose annual meeting she spoke in Chicago. It was reissued in paperback with Simon & Schuster who also brought out *Heading West* and will reprint *The River to Pickle Beach* in 1996. LSU Press has reissued *The Astronomer & Other Stories* as part of their Voices of the South series. She was inducted into the Fellowship of Southern Writers and received honorary degrees from Queens College and Pembroke University in 1995. Interviews appeared in *Parting the Curtains* (Blair) and *The Christ-Haunted Landscape* (UNC Press.) She was very much on the road giving readings and speeches during the school year and summer. A musical based on her story "The Ugliest Pilgrim" had December tryouts at the Eugene O'Neill Theater in Connecticut, will workshop this September at the Lincoln Center in New York City. Her new novel, *The Sharp Teeth of Love*, was completed and delivered to Knopf in August.

**Marianne Gingher**'s recent publications include a short story, "Peace," in *The Southern Review* (Summer, 1994). During the current year she has published a number of book reviews in *The New York Times* and the Raleigh *News and Observer.* She was a featured panelist on North Carolina writers along with Daphne Athas and William [Bill] McCranor Henderson for a UNC teleclass hookup between Asheville and Chapel Hill campuses. Other presentations include readings at UNC's Vacation College and the Allegheny County Public Library with novelist Laurence Naumoff. She is currently finishing two manuscripts, a book of novellas and a short novel.

**William Harmon** became the James Gordon Hanes Professor of English in July. He was also named Barbecue Editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review.* Three readings included participation in Second Sunday readings in February, and at the Bull's Head and McIntyre's Bookstore promoting Michael McFee's anthology *The Language They Speak Is Things to Eat,* in which some of his poems appear. He published a review-essay, "Yeats, Belief, Life, and Art," in *Sewanee Review* (Winter 1994), a poem, "Anaphora," in *Agni* 39 (Spring 1994), and some poetry in *Carolina Quarterly.* He was the memorial lecturer at the annual September meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society in St. Louis and took part in the planning and execution of the celebration of the E. E. Cummings Centennial (August-October), in which the Department of English and Ackland Art Museum played leading roles. He also loaned the Library for display a postcard that Cummings sent him in August 1954. During July and August, he was in England with his wife Anne and daughter Caroline. He and his wife have been at work on preparing a book by Laura (Riding) Jackson and Schuyler Jackson for publication. The Harmones attended the annual meeting of the Board of Literary Management of the Estate of Laura (Riding) Jackson and visited places significant in the study of Tennyson, Hardy, Arnold Bennett, Alfred Noyes, T.S. Eliot, and Marianne Faithfull. They became Friends of the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr on Lower Thames Street in London.


**Michael McFee** is the editor of a new anthology, *The Language They Speak Is Things to Eat: Poems by Fifteen Contemporary North Carolina Poets*
(UNC Press). During 1994, he had poems published in *Hudson Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Appalachian Quarterly*, *Chronicles*, the Raleigh *News & Observer*, and the *Patient T.V. Guide* of Duke University Medical Center. He also had poems anthologized in *Old Wounds, New Words: Poems from the Appalachian Poetry Project* (Jesse Stuart Foundation). An essay of his was published in the *Cellar Door* Bicentennial Issue. He received a Junior Faculty Development Award and a Students' Undergraduate Teaching Award. He was program coordinator for the UNC Writers' Series during the Bicentennial Celebration's "Carolina Saturday" in April. He attended and participated in numerous conferences, panels, and readings during the year: Virginia Highlands Festival, Abingdon; Governor's School of North Carolina, Greenville; Reynolds Homestead Writers' Workshop, Critz, VA; Wildacres Writers' Conference, Little Switzerland, NC; Elderhostel, UNC-Chapel Hill; Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.; N.C. Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount; Sports Literature Association Meeting, Chapel Hill; Poetry Society of South Carolina, Charleston; and East Carolina University, Greenville.

**James Seay** continues as director of the Creative Writing Program and a member of the Morgan Family Writer in Residence committee. He continues also to serve on the National Humanities Faculty. He organized the local Writers Harvest program as part of The National Reading for hunger relief on November 2 and participated in other local readings at Fearrington, Wellington's Books, and UNC Bicentennial Carolina Saturday. His poetry was included in anthologies from Indiana University Press (*Sweet Nothings: An Anthology of Rock and Roll in American Poetry*, ed. Jim Elledge), University Press of Mississippi (*Mississippi Observed*, ed. Hightower, Stanga, and Cox), and UNC Press (*The Language They Speak Is Things to Eat*, ed. Michael McFee), as well as in *Roy Blount's Book of Southern Humor* (Norton). He also published an essay in *Antaeus*, four book reviews and a short essay in the Raleigh *News and Observer*, and a poem in *The Southern Review*.

**Bland Simpson** performed in the revival of his show *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running: Songs & Stories of the Carolina Coast* at Governor Hunt's Year of the Coast Convention in Wilmington and at an NC Coastal Federation fund-raiser in Durham, both in September; then at the West Bank Downstairs Theatre in New York in September and October, 1994, and February and March, 1995. With fellow Red Clay Rambler Jack Herrick, Simpson was co-author/composer/lyricist of *Tar Heel Voices*, commissioned by the UNC Bicentennial Observance and Cape Fear Regional Theatre and performed in Fayetteville and Chapel Hill in early 1994. He also contributed to the score of *Fool Moon*, the 1993 Broadway hit that ran in Los Angeles, Vienna and Munich in 1994, and to the score of *The Merry Wives of Windsor, Texas*, named Best Musical Production of the 1993-94 Cincinnati season for an April-May, 1994, run at Playhouse in the Park. Simpson authored "Information is Light," a script for Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., delivered by Governor Hunt before members of the North Carolina Legislature and Council of State as part of the North Carolina Museum of History's Information Highways Demonstration Project. His book reviews appeared in the *North Carolina Literary Review* (Spring, 1994) and the Raleigh *News and Observer*, and his article "His Own Way from the Start, A Conversation with Shelby Foote '39" ran in *Carolina Alumni Review* (Summer, 1994). Other performances and appearances included: a concert, UNC Alumni Evening honoring Chancellor Paul Hardin, New York; a reading with songs for the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem; an appearance on North Carolina NOW, NC Public Television; a concert on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," broadcast from Kiva Hall, Albuquerque, New Mexico, American and National Public Radio; and readings for the Wednesday Club (Danville, VA), the Friends of the Library (Durham, NC), and the Friends of Weymouth (Southern Pines, NC). Simpson begins a three-year term on the editorial board of *Southern Cultures* in July, 1995. In 1996, The University of Georgia Press will publish a paperback edition of Simpson's novel, *Heart of the Country*. 
FORMER FACULTY

Max Steele, retired and an editor for Story magazine, and Jill McCorkle, now teaching at Harvard, both have books reprinted in Algonquin's Front Porch trade paperback series. Two of Elizabeth Spencer's books are being reprinted: The Light in the Piazza and Other Italian Tales (University Press of Mississippi) and The Salt Line (LSU Press).

STAFF

Frances Coombs, program secretary, completed the requirements for Duke University's Certificate in Nonprofit Management. She also had a speech published in the Carolina Communicator.

ALUMNI NEWS

Wendy Sheridan Alderman (’68) administers a residential program for adults with developmental disabilities in Brevard, North Carolina.

Kenneth Allen (’95) will enter Harvard graduate school in the fall.

Titus Pelkey Bicknell (’93) has been studying Latin at the Gregorian University in Rome on a Fulbright grant. His research involves the Latin poetry of Milton, Herber, and Landor. He has also been attempting dactylic hexamors. He hopes to spend another year in Rome before beginning a graduate program.

Rick Borsten (’83) has published two novels and three children's books. He has a third novel under consideration in New York. He works with developmentally disabled adults, stays busy in Corrallis, Oregon, with Kim and their children Sarah and Luke.

Arlo Brown (’95) will work as a river guide on the Chattooga.

Ellen Bush (’94) won a fellowship to the MFA program at Cornell University.

Hyonmyong Paul Cho (’94) won the 1993-94 Louis B. Rubin, Jr., Prize in fiction.

John Crutchfield (’94) won a fellowship in poetry at Cornell, but declined it for a fellowship in German at Johns Hopkins.

Sarah Dessen (’93) has been offered a contract by Orchard for a young adult work entitled "First Boy" and her agent is seeking to place a second novel.

Birch De Vault (’94) was accepted into the MFA program in poetry at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

Elizabeth Dilley (’95) and her fiancé will be in California where she will attend graduate school at Berkeley.

Pamela Yvonne Duncan (’83), who took English 35 with Doris Betts as an UNC employee, won the Grand Prize in the 1993 Spectator Fiction Contest with her story "The Night Shift."

Monica Eiland (’95), won 3rd place in the 1994 Asimov contest, received 2nd place in 1995, and was invited to the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts, Tampa, Florida.

Stephanie Fischetti (’95), home after study in England, contemplates graduate school in English Literature, after completing her undergraduate degree in December, 1995.

Julie Funderburk (’92) won the 1994 Academy of American Poets prize at UNC-G, where she recently finished her MFA degree. She also served as poetry editor of The Greensboro Review.

Shirley Fung (’94) was a 1994 Carolina Quarterly fiction winner.

Samatha (Sam) Ganly (now Hicks) lives with her husband and son Erik in San Diego, California.

David Gardner (’88) is one of the editors of The Motley Fool, an investments newsletter out of Alexandria, Virginia.

Rachel Gathercole (’95) was a 1994 Carolina Quarterly fiction winner.

Jim Grimsley's (’78) Winter Birds (Algonquin) has been highly praised in The New Yorker and Publisher's Weekly. Living in Atlanta, he will teach playwriting at the Padua Theather Festival in Raleigh this summer and fiction writing at Emory in the fall. He has won Newsday’s Oppenheimer award and the
Bryan prize from the Fellowship of Southern Writers for his plays.

**Peter Hapke** ('78) is an environmental lawyer in Seattle. He would love to see any alums passing through the Northwest.

**Zandy Hartig** ('90) is living in New York and pursuing an acting career. She will appear in an independent film "Heavy" (along with Shelley Winters) premiering at Sundance Film Festival in November. She has also been filming commercials.

**Justen Hix** ('92) is living in Cary and doing computer work for Motorola in the Research Triangle Park.

**Clay Hodges** ('90) is an English instructor at Coastal Carolina College in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

**Martha Hutton** ('90) is a teaching assistant in the MFA program at George Mason.

**Nancy Johnson** ('92) is a divinity student at St. Johns in Collegeville, Minnesota, having completed the master's divinity program at Duke.

**Ray Jones** ('87) lives in Buies Creek and is teaching 7th grade.

**Jonathan Justice** ('95) will be in Wilmington working in the film industry.

**Coventry Lee Kessler**, a teacher in Durham, has been publishing feature articles in area newspapers.

**Eric Killough** ('94) was accepted into the MFA program in poetry at the University of Arizona.

**Kevin Kruse** ('94) won a fellowship in history at Cornell.

**Dee Langston** ('95), who won the Max Steele Award this year, continues to be a journalist in Knightdale while working on her novel.

**Robert Lee** ('91) is home in Elm Springs, Arkansas, after international travel for Christian missions. For Christmas he sent friends a collection of devotional poems.

**Kristin Leight** ('94) won a Marshall Scholarship to study at Oxford University.

**Alane Mason** ('86) was on campus in October to speak for West House. She is a trade book editor at Morrow.

**Jonathan McCall** ('95) will be working at an environmental agency with headquarters in Chapel Hill.


**Chandler McRee** ('87) is the head scriptwriter and lead actor with the Black Swan Theatre Company, a grass-roots children's theatre troupe serving central Florida.

**Beth Meekins** ('89) is a doctoral student in English at Florida State University. She plans to complete her Ph. D. this summer.

**Rahul Mehta** ('94) is a fact-checker for the Index section of *Harper's*, and also works at the *Village Voice*.

**Lydia Millet** ('90) is taking classes at Duke and will publish a novella this spring with Gail Sheehy, New York.

**Philip Memmer** ('93) received his MFA in poetry at University of Oregon. He and wife Michelle will be moving to Pittsburgh where Michelle will enter the Arts Administration program at Carnegie Mellon.

**Scott Nadelson** ('95) will be traveling this summer in Israel.

**Lawrence Naumoff** ('85) has written *Rootie Kazootie*, *The Night of the Weeping Women*, and *Taller Women: A Cautionary Tale*.

**David Nelson** ('86), a Chapel Hill native, has completed his graduate work at the University of Mississippi and is now listed as Contributing Writer on the masthead of *Reckon: the Magazine of Southern Culture* which began publishing in 1995.

**Jenny OPhill ('90) has a story in Black Warrior Review.**

**Elizabeth Oliver** ('95) will be attending the MFA program at Emerson College this fall.

**Michael Parker** ('84) received the 1994 Sir Walter Raleigh award for his 2nd book of fiction *The Geographical Cure* (Scribner's). He teaches at UNC-G.

**Sally Pont** ('86) has completed her MFA and is now living and teaching in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
Ruffin Prevost ('91) is with 4 a.m. Sudios in Studio City, California. He has published another computer book *Internet Insider* from Osborne McGraw Hill. He can be reached on the Net at ruffin@cerf.net.

Marie Price ('89) left Algonquin Books for the film department at the School of the Arts in Winston-Salem and is now a writer of film scripts.

Steve Putnam of Yarmouth, Maine, teaches school and is on sabbatical in 1995-96. He has a son at UNC-CH and has finished one novel and continues writing.

Ann and Scott Raland and their two children live in Raleigh. Scott has been teaching creative writing at Wake Tech.

Russell Roberts ('73) is now Director of the John M. Olin School of Business at Washington University, St. Louis, and in 1994 published *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism* (Prentice Hall), an allegory that Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman called "fascinating." He teaches economics, is married, and has a daughter.

Allen Robertson ('83) is living in Charlotte. He and Jennie have two children, George and Will.

Warren G. Rochelle ('77) completed his MFA at UNC-G in 1991 and is currently in their doctoral program in English. He earned his MS in Library Science from Columbia University in 1978. He is employed as the managing editor of *The Greensboro Review* and is assistant to the director of the MFA Writing Program. In addition to his scholarly writing, he has published short fiction and or poetry in *Aboriginal Science Fiction, Forbidden Lines, Coraddi*, and *Charlotte Poetry Review*.

Karen Rosen has published in *TV Guide* and has her first book out with Longstreet Press, *25 Years of the Peachtree Race, the July 4th Marathon in Atlanta* (1994), with photos. She participates in the race herself; her father Mel was the 1992 U.S. Olympic men's track coach.

Michael Rowlett ('94) won a graduate fellowship in music (clarinet) at the University of Iowa. He was winner of the 1993-94 Robert B. House Memorial Prize in Poetry.

John Russell ('77), whose first novel *Favorite Sons* won the Sir Walter Raleigh award, is a regular at Carolina Publishing Institute, lives in Chapel Hill, and continues to write and practice law.

Sherri Shaw ('92) of Goldsboro finished her MFA, married lawyer Ashley Smith, and is revising a novel and teaching at Wayne Tech.

Jennie Shippen ('94) was accepted into the MFA program in poetry at New York University. She was winner of the 1993-94 Robert B. House Memorial Prize in Poetry.

Julia Ridley Smith ('94) will enter the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence this fall. She won the 1993-94 Max Steele Award in fiction.

Kathandra "Sandy" Smith ('94) a UNC graduate student in communications, won the Writer's Guild of America award for a 6-week internship on the set of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and the new "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

Andrew Snee ('91) is an editor with *The Sun*. His wife Julie attended the Carolina Publishing Institute. They announce the birth of a son, Andrew Marvin on February 11.

Amy Sproull ('95) is attending the Publishing Institute at Rice this summer.

David Jonathan Stott ('95) will enter the MFA program at VCU in Richmond, Virginia, this fall. He won the 1993-94 George B. Wynne Award in fiction.

Melanie Sumner ('86) has had fiction in *The New Yorker* and other magazines. Houghton Mifflin published her first novel *Poltie Society* in 1995. The novel draws on her experiences as a Peace Corps worker in Senegal. She has been a fellow at Yaddo and the Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown. Among those names in the dedication is Max Steele. She will be a Visiting Lecturer in Creative Writing at UNC-CH during 1995-96.

Dana Terebelski ('94) has been traveling in Europe on a Phillips Scholarship.

Deborah Ubebe ('92) is in Georgetown Law School and still writes fiction on the side.
Roger Wall ('77) has lived in Philadelphia since 1983. He has done editorial work for medical publishers and currently creates indexes for medical books. He is also an occasional member of the Rittenhouse Writers Group and has twice read stories under their auspices at Borders Book Shop.

Andy Ward ('90) is now with Hughes, Hubbard, and Reed in New York.

Reneé Wolcott ('95) married on May 20.

Barbara Wright ('88), who got her Masters in writing from the University of New Hampshire and worked at Esquire, is publishing her first novel Easy Money with Algonquin. It is set in Denver, where she lives.

Marly Youmans ('81), who earned her Ph.D. in UNC’s English Department, published a novel Little Jordan with David Godine. Godine will also publish her story collection Salt Gardens next year. She, her husband, and two children live in Carrboro.

You are invited to send us news of alumni activities. Please write if you wish to be added to the mailing list. Include your name and the year you graduated from UNC and send to

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