Dear Readers,

Due to my absence last year, on a research and study leave, this issue of Chapter and Verse is late and somewhat thin. You would normally find one or two articles by students or former students of the program; in-depth examination of where we’ve been as a program, where we are, and where we’re going; lots of drawings; and some alumni and other program news. This year I am offering a more condensed document. In it I hope to provide a record of some of our students’ achievements, highlight our visiting writers, and share just a little bit of news.

Creative Writing at Carolina continues to nurture writers of all kinds, including those interested in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, playwriting, or songwriting. This past year 624 students were enrolled in at least one of our classes, 84 of whom were Creative Writing minors. The non-fiction sections of our curriculum have become more popular and well attended. As evidence, in 2016-17, for the first time, we’re offering a yearlong Honors workshop in non-fiction, taught by Professor Stephanie Griest.

Our Distinguished Visiting Writer program has undergone a metamorphosis. For 20 years it was called the Morgan Distinguished Visiting Writer in Residence, in honor of Allen and Musette Morgan, whose kind support founded the program. Then, for two years, it was known simply as the Distinguished Writer in Residence. Now, and for years to come, it will be known as the Frank B. Hanes Distinguished Writer in Residence. We are very thankful to the children of Frank Hanes, who support this program in honor of their father. Our first Hanes Writer was former Poet Laureate, Natasha Trethewey. The Thomas Wolfe Award this year went to Clyde Edgerton. This year the event was supported by John and Jessica Skipper (’78), both of whom have been erstwhile supporters of the CWP for years.

We are fortunate to enjoy two Armfield Poetry Readings every year, sponsored by the Armfield Fund for Poetry, a bequest to us from the late poet Blanche Britt Armfield (MA ’28). Our distinguished poets and readers for 2015–2016 were Phil Memmer and Greg Pardlo.

Onward!

Daniel Wallace, Director
Creative Writing Program

“The ability to write is not only a gift, but also a call to service.”

—Krista Bremer, North Carolinian and author of A Tender Struggle.
Natasha Tretheway  
2016 Frank B. Hanes Distinguished Writer in Residence

Clyde Edgerton  
2015 winner of the Thomas Wolfe Award

The Creative Writing Program at UNCG-CH is one of the best in the world. I can only imagine what I might have produced had I been alive to attend it. 
-James Joyce
Our friends at UNC are helpful in too many ways to name, but we thank them all: Department of English and Comparative Literature Chair Beverly Taylor for all she’s done during her tenure, which ends this year; our allies and counselors in South Building, particularly Chancellor Carol Folt, College of Arts & Sciences Dean James Dean, Senior Associate Dean Terry Rhodes, Director of Communications Dee Reid, and Assistant Director of Communications Kim Spurr.

As always, we recognize the other private funds supporting Creative Writing activities, including the Rankin Faculty Support Fund, established by Alex Rankin (class of ’77); the Burrus Fund, established by Ann Williams Burrus (class of ’52); the Froelich Family Fund, established to help increase our lecturers’ stipends by Henry (class of ’81) and Molly Froelich of Charlotte; and our Gift Fund. The Walker Percy (class of ’37) Fund, an endowment to help underwrite our lecturers, was set in motion several years ago by Frank Borden Hanes, Sr. (class of ’42). And the Robert Ruark Award, for student non-fiction writing about North Carolina’s natural world, receives support from the Ruark Society of Chapel Hill, led by retired attorney and author James T. Cheatham III (class of ’57, ’61 LLB/JD). We deeply appreciate the support of these friends of Creative Writing.

Support the Creative Writing Program at Carolina

Please consider making a gift to the Creative Writing Program to support our superlative students and first-rate faculty. You can make a contribution online via our secure website at giving.unc.edu/gift and search for “Creative Writing Program” or “101165,” or by mailing a check to the UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation, 134 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (please note in the memo section of your check that your gift is intended for the Creative Writing Program). For more information about giving opportunities within the program, please contact Angela O’Neill, Assistant Director of Development, at 919-843-2745 or angela.oneill@unc.edu.
GABY CALVOCORESSI’s next book, *Rocket Fantastic*, comes out in Fall 2017. She has started a podcast with the *Los Angeles Review of Books* called “Voluble.”

STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST recently finished her fifth book, *All the Agents & Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands*, which UNC Press will publish in Spring 2017. She will spend the summer traveling to Romania, Spain, Rwanda, New York, and California, conducting research for her next book, about women artists. *The Believer* magazine will publish an excerpt in their next issue.

RANDALL G. KENAN was on the faculties of the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. He was the recipient of a Lannan Writer’s Residency in Marfa, Texas. He edited and wrote the introduction to a new anthology about NC food, *The Carolina Table: North Carolina Writers on Food* (Eno Publishers, November 2016). He survived a stroke, dances the hoochie coochie at midnight, and has pretty damn near perfected a meatless chili guaranteed to put pep in your step.

MICHAEL MCFEE taught the year-long senior Honors in Poetry Writing class for the ninth time in 2015-2016. His students gave public readings from their theses in April, to appreciative audiences in Graham Memorial. *We Were Once Here*, his eleventh collection of poems, is forthcoming from Carnegie Mellon University Press in February 2017.

ALAN SHAPIRO has two books coming out in the fall of 2016: *Life Pig*, a book of poems, and *That Self-Forgetful Perfectly Useless Concentration*, a book of essays, both with University of Chicago Press.


UNC-TV hosted their discussion of *Little Rivers* on “NC Bookwatch” and also premiered Simpson’s new waterways show, *The Lockwood Folly*.

Our State published his cover story “A Sound Country Serenade.” The Red Clay Ramblers, of which Simpson is the longtime pianist, helped raise nearly $40,000 for the Be Loud! Sophie Foundation, an advocacy fund for hospitalized teenagers.

DANIEL WALLACE, Director of the Creative Writing Program, has published essays in *Garden & Gun*, *Our State Magazine* and elsewhere. His sixth novel, *Extraordinary Adventures*, will be released in May, 2017.