

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

This has served as a place to thank the numerous people who have helped to put together the year's issue. This year, I begin my expressions of appreciation with the librarians and other archivists who have been particularly helpful with our search for photographs to accompany the prose within: Jerry Cotten at UNC's NC Collection, Elizabeth Dunn at Duke's Special Collections Library, Steve Massengill at NC Archives & History, Maury York at ECU's NC Collection, the ECU Joyner Library interlibrary loan staff, and the Henry Madden Library at California State University-Fresno. Relatedly, I thank the contributing photographers and artists who have been respectful of our non-profit status, providing their work at significant discounts. And a special thanks goes to this issue's writers for their patience during our arduous editorial process.

I continue my thanks with the *NCLR* editorial and office staff. I start with Art Director Mary Thiesen, whose talent has brought national attention to *NCLR* (see this issue's NC Newsbriefs regarding our recent award). Senior Associate Editor Lorraine Robinson has come to the rescue once again this year, this time with an article for the "NC Food Finds" section we've announced but not yet received submissions for. She enjoyed tasting and reviewing the food so much that she plans to write regular such columns (but we still welcome additional submissions from readers). The selections of our new Poetry Editor Jeff Franklin and our outgoing Fiction Editor Luke Whisnant come together to give this issue's readers a particularly strong creative section. And finally, this issue was produced with the day-to-day service of Senior Assistant Editor Kim Cox, as well as the other student staff members and editorial board members (listed in front matter), while the services of Assistant Editor Randall Martoccia, Subscriptions Manager Kim Seavey and Submissions Assistant Dennis Turner allowed us to keep the editorial staff's attention on the issue at hand. I also thank again Angel Savage, who manages our budget; Jim Holte and Debbie Little, who assign our graduate assistants; Kim Thompson, who handles some of our paperwork; Bruce Southard, Chair of the ECU English Department; W. Keats Sparrow, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at ECU; and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for ongoing support of *NCLR*.

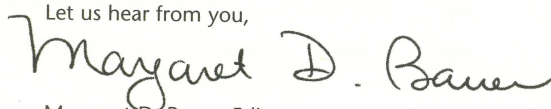
This issue's special feature section on Other Voices & Genres was chosen as appropriate for the first issue of the 21st century. It certainly prompted a variety of submissions, from genre studies like Richard Rankin's look at early North Carolina humor to exploring different genres like James Plath's interview with Hemingway biographer/retired NCSU Professor Michael S. Reynolds and Lightnin' Wells's examination of record production in the state. Kecia McBride's analysis of early twentieth-century women playwrights of North Carolina introduces some "other voices" as well as focuses on a new genre for *NCLR*, which hasn't dealt much with drama in its past issues. "Other voices" can also be found in the articles by Wynn Cherry and Tamara Powell on lesbian magazines in North Carolina and in Ed Madden's article on gay NC writer Jim Grimsley.

In celebration of his 100th birthday, this issue's second special feature section is on Thomas Wolfe. For this section, Martha Morgan has provided an interview with the daughter of Wolfe's influential teacher Margaret Roberts; Robert Morgan commemorates Wolfe in verse; and John Idol compares Wolfe's autobiographical fiction with that of Pat Conroy, within which article you'll find a note regarding Pat Conroy's screenplay of *Look Homeward, Angel*.

As we announced in the last issue, our website is up, thanks again to Sally Lawrence, Luke Whisnant, and the ECU English Department. It is still at the "functional" stage – providing the necessary information to subscribe, submit, or purchase back issues. Extra photographs from back and current issues, the NC Writers database, and details about the contents of back issues are being added as staff and time allow.

In the meantime, enjoy this issue, purchase those back issues you need to complete your set, or order another copy of this issue for a friend, and –

Let us hear from you,



Margaret D. Bauer, Editor