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## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



photograph by Ryan Webb

At NCLR's 10th anniversary party, Editor Margaret Bauer thanks Associate Editor Lorraine Robinson for her help since 1997; also pictured, NCLR Editorial Board member, Keats Sparrow

Dear Readers,

During my first year as *NCLR* Editor, Keats Sparrow, the Dean of East Carolina University's College of Arts & Sciences, called me into his office to propose celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight in *NCLR*'s 2003 issue. I was impressed by the Dean's ability to think so far ahead because 2003 then seemed so far away, but here it is, five years and five issues later, and – if you'll excuse the pun as well as the cliché – time certainly has “flown.”

I did take the Dean up on his idea for this issue, so in it you'll find a special feature section, Aviation in North Carolina Literature and Letters, that includes an interview with writer-pilot Clyde Edgerton, as well as several other provocative “flights of fancy.” I'm sure you'll find it as interesting as we did how much flight has influenced North Carolina literature, even before that fateful December day. My thanks this year begin with Associate Editor Lorraine Robinson who came up with the cover idea for this issue, and with ECU librarian Mary Boccaccio, who helped to secure these never-before-published cyanotypes for *NCLR*'s cover.

New in this issue is a “Flashbacks” section, in which we will publish articles that hearken back to past special feature topics. And for this inaugural flashback, we are honored to be printing Elizabeth Spencer's speech on the occasion of Thomas Wolfe's 100th birthday (which was celebrated with a special feature section in the 2000 issue). More thanks go to Terry Roberts for sending Ms. Spencer's speech to us.

Our general section on North Carolina Writers, in which we include, besides the popular Dictionary of North Carolina Writers, articles and interviews that we want to run but that don't fit into any upcoming special feature sections, is particularly strong this issue, including another Clyde Edgerton interview, which also involved Tim McLaurin, who died shortly after we went to press last year. *NCLR* thanks Tim's widow, Carol McLaurin, for allowing us to publish this interview and for helping us with our search for photos. We also extend our deepest condolences to Carol and other members of Tim's family.

As we ask each year, **subscribers should check their mailing labels for their subscription expiration dates. If your subscription expires with this issue or if you would like to subscribe to *NCLR*, please go to our website ([www.ecu.edu/nclr](http://www.ecu.edu/nclr)) for a subscription/renewal form.** The 2004 issue will feature Ethnic North Carolina, and the 2005 issue will feature writers of the Outer Banks. Your renewal, new subscription, back issue purchase, and/or donation help to ensure the continuation of this publication. (Donors will be added to our list of “Friends,” which appears in each issue; see page 148.) Your support is deeply appreciated.

Further expressions of appreciation go to *NCLR*'s assistant editors, graphic designers, interns, and editorial board members; ECU's English Department, for its contribution to our budget and editorial staff; the office staff of both the English Department and the College of Arts & Sciences for their help with managing our budget; and ECU's Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for their continued financial support.

I will close this year with a dedication of this issue that celebrates the first flight to the *Columbia* astronauts who perished this year, as well as to the 1986 *Challenger* crew, which included a North Carolina native, Michael Smith.

Let us hear from you,

*Margaret D. Bauer*

Margaret D. Bauer  
Editor

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