
A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

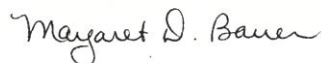
Expressions of appreciation this year begin with a huge thank you to Clyde Edgerton, who “launched” *NCLR*’s 2003 “flight issue” in September with a reading here in Greenville. See more about this event in assistant editor Maryscot Mullins’s “NC Newsbriefs” at the back of this volume. I’d also like to thank Michael Cornett, who showed me the “bottle tree” in Chapel Hill that inspired this issue’s cover (and thanks to former *NCLR* art director Mary Thiesen for another fabulous job turning a vague inspiration into a beautiful design). Further expressions of appreciation go to *NCLR*’s associate and assistant editors, interns, and editorial board members; ECU’s English Department, for its contribution to our budget and editorial staff; the office staffs of both the English Department and the Thomas Harriot 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.

For this year’s special feature section on “Ethnic North Carolina,” I hasten to point out that we are aware that we have only begun to explore the numerous ethnicities that can be found in this state. The special feature contents were determined largely by the submissions we received from writers, and I think readers will agree that the writers interviewed and whose work is published or discussed here reflect well the diverse North Carolina talent that *NCLR* continues to highlight each year as we explore some different focus on the literature produced in and about North Carolina. Readers should consider this issue’s contents a taste of the multitalented, multiethnic, multicultural literature of North Carolina. We will continue to feature the words and works of other writers of different ethnicities in future issues, not only in the “Flashbacks” section but also as these writers respond to calls for submissions to our upcoming special feature sections on the Outer Banks (2005), NC Children’s and Adolescent Literature (2006), and, not yet scheduled but planned issues on Film and on Music.

In order not to miss out on any of this talent, **subscribers should check their mailing labels for their subscription expiration dates.** If your subscription expires with this issue or if other readers would like to subscribe to *NCLR*, please go to our website (www.ecu.edu/nclr) for a subscription/renewal form. While there, you might want to check out the **BACK ISSUES** link. We are running low on some of our back issues, including the award-winning 1999 issue featuring the Civil War in North Carolina, so now is the time to purchase copies to complete your set. Your renewal, new subscription, back issue purchase, or donation helps to ensure the continuation of this publication. (Donors will be added to our list of “Friends,” which appears in each issue; see page 112 of this issue). We greatly appreciate your support.

We have appreciated, too, the e-mails and letters from readers who have enjoyed previous and current issues and who have sent us ideas for future issues. So —

Let us hear from you,



Margaret D. Bauer
Editor
