

### On New NCLR Friends

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

I noted introducing the Flashbacks section how I have developed friendships with some of NCLR's regular writers over the years. And sometimes I become "fast friends" with new writers I meet – like Nancy Werking Poling, whom I met in person at the fall North Carolina Writers' Network conference. We sat down over a cup of coffee and talked about our writing to such an extent that by the time we rose, I had a new friend. It was fun too to introduce her to Randall Kenan, who had selected her story "Leander's Lies" for our 2018 Albright Prize. Congratulations again to Nancy, and thank you again to Randall for serving as judge.

At that same Network conference, the 2018 Linda Flowers Literary Award was presented to Jennifer Brown, who read her winning essay for us. Quite moved by it, I asked her if the story was being published and, if not, if we could publish it in NCLR. The North Carolina Humanities Council, which sponsors the award, welcomed this offer and funded the design and art. Now I am going to confess something to NCLR readers, which I admitted to the author and to Melanie Moore at the North Carolina Humanities Council when I spoke to each about publishing the essay: I submitted an essay to that competition myself, and while of course I would have been thrilled to win, I am also pleased to find the judges' selection for the award in a competition I've entered to be so deserving of the prize. I commend the judges and thank the North Carolina Humanities Council for their support of the prize and of our publication of it in these pages.

Finally, find here three more of the Applewhite Prize finalists, including Sally Thomas's, which was selected by final judge Amber Flora Thomas for second place. Thanks to the 2018 finalists and Amber for participating in readings this past year, and thanks to NCLR Assistant Editor Angela Love Kitchin for organizing most of these events. Angela gets a congratulations, too, for her promotion between the online and

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### Miscellany

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the 2018 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize  
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art by David Simonton
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the Linda Flowers Literary Award  
essay by Jennifer Brown  
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a poem by Melinda Thomsen  
art by Merry Moor Winnett

print issues, in recognition of her contributions as a staff member, which so exceeded the already high expectations for student staff that some formal recognition seemed appropriate.

I will take this last bit of space then to express my gratitude to all of the student staff members for their hard work and to the ECU English Department and Graduate School for providing graduate assistantships. In addition, a record nine undergraduates enrolled in NCLR's internship class last fall, three of whom took on a second semester internship in the spring. As I watch for new works by writers after they've appeared in our pages, so too do I enjoy following the careers of our former student staff members. So please, to all of you, stay in touch. ■



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MANY STORIES, ONE PEOPLE

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