

New Prize Winners, Old Friends, and a "Last Rock Novel"

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

We are excited to publish here the first Paul Green Prize essay. The author, Rachel Warner, received \$250 from the Paul Green Foundation, which has renewed this grant for the next Green-related essay accepted for publication in our pages (hint, hint). Rachel's essay includes Green inviting Zora Neale Hurston to join his playwriting group during her brief time in North Carolina. I have waited for an essay about Hurston in North Carolina since *NCLR* Founding Editor Alex Albright showed me (many years ago) a photograph of the writer at a North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University) football game. We've learned that it may be the only photograph taken of her during her time here.

This section is full of award-winning content: Katey Schultz's Betts Prize story, for example, which reveals that the author is continuing to write stellar stories since we reviewed her collection in *NCLR Online* 2014. A finalist last year, Wayne Johns is back this year with the winning Applewhite Prize poem. In fact, all of the poems selected by final judge Allison Adelle Hedge Coke for special honors were previous finalists.

Also in this section: poetry by *NCLR* regulars James Applewhite and Fred Chappell, and Senior Associate Editor Christy Hallberg's interview with Jeff Jackson about his "last rock novel." This novel, along with the usual provocative art selections for the creative writing, recall the 2017 issue special feature topic, Literature and the Other Arts. And speaking of the art in this issue, two works are by Black Mountain College artists. I remind you that the 1995 issue featuring Black Mountain College – and the aforementioned 2017 issue – indeed, all of *NCLR*'s back issues are available for purchase, though some are in limited supply. The approaching end of a third decade of publication seems like a good time to consider making sure you have a complete set on your shelves at home, as one of our thirtieth-anniversary plans is a campaign to get a complete set of *NCLR* onto the shelves of more libraries across the state. Please contact us if you'd like to sponsor a collection of *NCLR* for your local library. ■

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