



## NEWS BUREAU

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NEW NORTH CAROLINA  
LITERARY MAGAZINE  
MAKES DEBUT AT ECU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ECU News Bureau

GREENVILLE - "The North Carolina Literary Review," a new magazine showcasing writers with North Carolina connections, will appear in its first issue this June.

Editor of "NCLR" is Alex Albright, a member of the English faculty at East Carolina University. Publishers will be the ECU Department of English and the N.C. Literary and Historical Association.

The "Review" is for "serious readers," of the type "found as often in bookstores and libraries as in universities," Albright said.

"It's not just another literary magazine or jargon-laden academic journal," he explained. "It will be a serious and entertaining magazine whose purpose is to explore and explain the connections four centuries of writers have had with North Carolina," Albright said.

Issues will be published each June and December.

Featured in the first issue will be a pair of articles by Thomson Shields and Marjorie Hudson about John Lawson, early 18th century explorer and author. Accompanying the articles is a series of brief "sidebar" pieces giving the historical context of Lawson's life, journeys and writing: the Tuscarora Wars; and explanations of early North Carolina politics, geography and economy.

"Ordinarily, in a scholarly-type publication, this background explanatory material would be found in footnotes, if included at all," Albright noted.

Also planned to accompany the Lawson articles will be a 2,000 word personal essay by Marjorie Hudson which, Albright says, "explains how a laywoman (and a Yankee) became fascinated with Lawson and used his 'New Voyage to Carolina' to get her through the first long day of the U.S. bombing of Baghdad."

Among other articles in the first issue are "The Indivisible Presence of Randall Jarrell" by Fred Chappell; a retrospective by Jim Vickers about "Contempo," a radical literary magazine published in Chapel Hill in the early 1930s; an examination of North Carolina slave narratives by Gay Wilentz; a series of photographs with short narrative by Roger Manley called "Migrant Afternoon;" and an

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interview with A.R. Ammons illustrated with photos of Ammons' childhood in Whiteville.

Regular items in the "Review" will be "Display Case," a series of armchair visits to bookstores, libraries, publishing houses and archives; "Syllabus," described by Albright as "an annotated self-study course on North Carolina writers;" "Chronicle of Small Mags," an introduction to the state's literary and scholarly journals; and miscellaneous biographies, reviews, news and notes about writers, readers and books.

"'NCLR' is a unique venture; nothing like it has ever been published, in North Carolina or elsewhere," Albright said. As a periodical focusing on writers with North Carolina connections, the term "North Carolina writer" will be loosely interpreted, he added.

"What determines a North Carolina writer -- birthright, residence, education, use of a North Carolina setting? For 'NCLR,' the label is for writers whose readers come from anywhere, those who've transcended simple geography, but remain connected to North Carolina. We'll seek out and explore those connections and find a list as broadly defined as our writers will make it."

Albright cited several well-known writers with North Carolina ties: William Styron, a Duke graduate and former Marine at Camp Lejeune; Jack Kerouac, who once resided in Kinston and Rocky Mount; Carson McCullers, who lived in Charlotte and Fayetteville; even William Faulkner, who spent several days in Chapel Hill "on a binge with 'Contempo' editors."

"The 'North Carolina Literary Review' is not so much about labels as it is connections," Albright said. "It is as much for North Carolina readers as it is for writers."

The magazine was designed by Eva Roberts, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design who now teaches at the ECU School of Art. It will be printed in Rocky Mount on acid-free, archival stock paper.

"NCLR" will be sold in selected bookstores and mailed to members of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, who will automatically receive it as part of their membership entitlement. It is also available to subscribers for \$15 per year or \$28 for two years.

Subscription checks, payable to "NCLR" should be mailed to Albright at the Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. (A few copies of the first two issues, signed by all the authors and serially numbered in a limited edition, are available for purchase by literature collectors for \$200 each, or \$400 for both issues in Volume 1.)

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