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For more information contact:

*North Carolina Literary Review*

NCLRUser@ecu.edu; 252-328-1537

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{Image credits: Cover art by Mona Wu, design by Dana Ezzell Gay}

***NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY REVIEW* ONLINE ISSUE EXPLORES NORTH  
CAROLINA WRITING BEYOND THE STATE'S BORDERS**

The theme of this year's issues of the award-winning *North Carolina Literary Review* is "North Carolina Literature in a Global Context." The online issue was released this month with cover art by Winston-Salem artist Mona Wu, a native of China. The writers and artists in this year's issues all share a common bond: they have called North Carolina home. However, not all were born here, not all still live here, and some have written works set in other states and countries. *NCLR* Editor Margaret Bauer writes in the issue's introduction, "Perhaps it is the variety of life experiences of all of these writers that explains the quality of the literature of the Old North State."

Stories and books reviewed in the 2015 online issue span the globe from Malaysia and China to Texas and Florida. Jude Whelchel's story "Big Joy Family" explores the joys and struggles of an international adoption. Georgia-born writer Taylor Brown, now a resident of Wilmington, NC, sets his story in a mining community grappling with the dangers and complexities of union strikes and Vietnam War soldiers returning home. The global online issue also includes poetry by New York natives Grace C. Ocasio and Marylin Hervieux and New England native Richard Betz, among others. These poets were finalists in the James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition; the winning poem will be published in the print issue, due out in the summer.

*NCLR* has won numerous awards since it was first published in 1992, most recently, the 2014 Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement from the Council of Editors of Learned

Journals, which recognized *NCLR* for expanding to publication of online issues. These open-access issues provide the opportunity to reach a broader audience, enabling the publication to acquaint even more people with North Carolina's rich literary history, while raising awareness for and interest in the print issue. "Perhaps the best part of publishing *NCLR Online* is the exposure these authors and, of course, *NCLR* receive, because each issue can be easily shared around the world," stated Bauer in her introduction to an earlier issue of *NCLR Online*. The writers and artists can readily promote their work in *NCLR Online* by linking to the journal from their websites and social media pages.

Content in the online issue complements, but is independent of, the forthcoming print issue. For example, the 2015 online issue includes a short essay introducing Monique Truong; the print issue will contain a full interview with Truong. Whelchel and Brown's short stories, published in the online issue, were finalists in the 2014 Doris Betts Fiction Prize competition; the winning story by Laura Herbst will be published in the print issue.

*NCLR* is published by East Carolina University and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. *NCLR Online* 2015 is a winter supplement to the annual print issue, which is published in the summer. *NCLR Online* maintains the same beautiful design as the print edition, created by the journal's art director, Dana Ezzell Gay, a faculty member of Meredith College in Raleigh. To read *NCLR Online* and subscribe to the print issue, go to [www.nclr.ecu.edu](http://www.nclr.ecu.edu).