

When Submissions Runneth Over

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

It is largely the content of this section that convinced me it was time to become a quarterly. I was waiting on the layouts of James W. Clark's essay on Thomas Wolfe and A.R. Ammons and Joseph Bathanti's on Ronald H. Bayes when I noticed I already had a hundred pages of content for the winter issue. While the Art Director polished up that issue for release, I could turn my attention to the work with the new spring semester student staff to prepare the reviews that would bring the spring issue to, as it turns out, over a hundred pages, including many by writers whose work has been previously featured in *NCLR*, which you'll read in these pages. And we still had to push some to the fall issue!

I appreciate the patience of writers like Dawn Reno Langley, whose essay was also held for this issue, as we divided up several finalists from our 2023 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize contest between the Winter and Spring issues. This is Dawn's debut in *NCLR*, but her essay echoes our 2022 theme: Writers Who Teach, Teachers Who Write. Also new to *NCLR* is Nathan Snead; his poem echoes our 2005 issue's focus on writing inspired by the North Carolina coast.

And speaking of that 2005 issue, which included a critical analysis of David Payne's novel *Gravesend Light*, included here is Elaine Neil Orr's review essay of new editions of Payne's Outer Banks trilogy. This essay was selected by editorial board member Rebecca Godwin for *NCLR*'s 2024 John Ehle Prize, an honor awarded to content that introduces or reintroduces a North Carolina writer whose work has not received the critical attention it deserves. Godwin wrote in explanation of her selection of Orr's essay on Payne's fiction for the honor this year: "This essay makes us want to read David Payne's

memoir and novels. It establishes the complexity and deep humanity of Payne's work, his philosophical wrestling with life's big questions, including the past's impact on our lives, as it also explores his relationship to major American writers." Congratulations to Elaine Neil Orr on this honor, as well as to David Payne for well deserved critical attention to his work. Allow me to take this opportunity to remind you that all appropriate essays and interviews from each year's issues are sent to a member of the editorial board, who selects one for the \$250 honorarium, given by [Press 53](#) of Winston-Salem, NC, in remembrance of John Ehle. Please consider what North Carolina writer's work you would like to explore in furtherance of *NCLR*'s mission to "preserve and promote the state's rich literary history." And subscribe to read more essays giving important critical attention to other North Carolina writers in the print issue.

Finally, I'm pleased that we are publishing more reviews of speculative fiction, featured in 2001, and children's literature, featured in 2006. Thank you to the reviewers of these books and so many others in these pages and the other sections of the issue. As we are releasing new book reviews on our website and in social media every Saturday, as well as collecting them in these issues, I repeat our call for reviewers. I'm particularly grateful to reviewers like Michael Gaspeny, George Hovis, John Kessel, and Heather Bell Adams (see her review in the next section), who volunteered to review after being reviewed in previous issues. But I am not surprised. Such generosity is a defining characteristic of the North Carolina writing community. For other reviewed authors who wish to return the favor to another writer, please find information about reviewing for *NCLR* [here](#). ■

