

Celebrating a Mentor, NCLR Alumni, and North Carolina's Inspiration to Writers on So Many Subjects and for All Ages

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

The familiar authors in this section include my mentor, Jim Clark ("Raleigh" Jim Clark, to distinguish him from the other literary Jim Clarks of North Carolina), who was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. We have covered Jim's numerous lifetime achievement honors over the years. This one makes me smile. Recipients of this honor must be retired. Jim has been retired from his long tenure at NCSU almost as long as I've known him (that's about thirty years now), and yet, he's never stopped actively serving his beloved literary community in leadership positions – and as a mentor to people like me and Rebecca Godwin, who wrote the story of his latest honor.

The other NCLR alum here is Bland Simpson. His books (with photography by Ann Cary Simpson) just keep coming. Retired from UNC now, Bland has taken the helm of the North Caroliniana Society following Jim Clark's presidency, and I foresee that he will continue to serve all of us literary folks – and his beloved home state's well-being – for many years to come.

And Harriet Jacobs, the subject of one of the books reviewed, is certainly a writer who has appeared in numerous issues of NCLR, as has the reviewer, my colleague Tom Shields (also retired now), whose articles on the Lost Colony and book reviews in NCLR are aplenty. Thank you, Tom, for your continued service to the North Carolina literary community in this capacity. (Fun fact: Tom is the person who brought the then four back issues of NCLR to me at a conference before my ECU interview thirty years ago this spring, so I could see what I was getting myself into if I got this job. And still, I had no idea.)

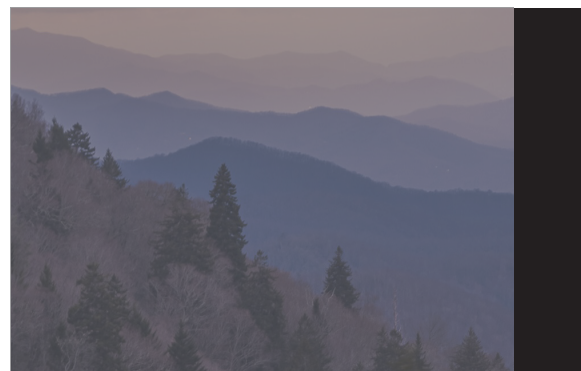
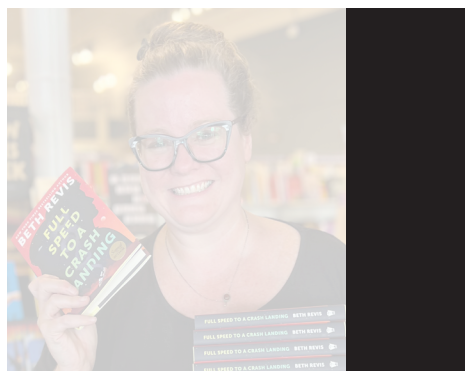
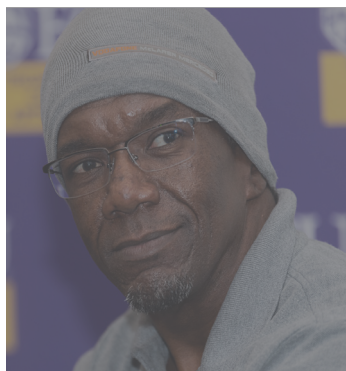
Also reviewed, Jason Mott's latest novel. NCLR published an interview with him in 2019, which

put him on our radar, so when his 2021 novel *Hell of a Book* was longlisted, then shortlisted for the National Book Award, we watched, waited, then celebrated his win.

The other reviews in this section are of books that "flash back" to many of our previous special feature sections (even as the writers may be new to our pages). I am reminded by the review of an historical novel inspired by the Wright brothers' sister of when the College Dean and NCLR's "grandfather" Keats Sparrow called me to his office to suggest we feature "Flight" in the 2003 issue to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight. At the time, I could not imagine a full feature on flying in North Carolina literature, though it turns out, we had no problem filling [that issue](#). Another historical novel, with a fictionalized Dorothea Dix hospital, calls back our 2021 feature on Writing Toward Healing. We have two reviews that cover stories that move from the mountains (2010: Appalachian Literature) to the coast (2005: Outer Banks Literature). There is even a cat-related novel reviewed here. The 1996 "cat" issue is before my time, and the idea of it does raise eyebrows ("You published a cat issue?") Yes, we did. And it has some [great stuff in it](#), people discover. It is dedicated to and was inspired by one of Founding Editor Alex Albright's beloved editors, Bertie Fearing. And finally, after our 2006 issue focus on children's and young adult literature showed us that the writingest state applies to writing for all ages, we are committed to including reviews of such books in these pages. Our hope is to reach parents and teachers who will introduce the concept of North Carolina as inspiration for great literature to readers of all ages – and perhaps the next generation of North Carolina writers. ■

FLASHBACKS: *Echoes of Past Issues*

- 22** "Raleigh Jim Clark" Inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine
by Rebecca Godwin
- 23** *History, Memoir, and Novel*
a review by E. Thomson Shields, Jr.
■ Lynn Domina, *Approaches to Teaching Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- 28** *Story of a Place*
a review by Evan Peter Smith
■ Bland Simpson, *Clover Garden, A Carolinian's Piedmont Memoir*
- 30** *Learning to Listen in Western North Carolina*
a review by Jessica Cory
■ Kathryn Kirkpatrick, *Creature*
■ John Thomas York, *The Charge*
- 34** *Gulledge's Love Letter*
a review by Shelby Hans
■ Jim Gulledge, *Green Forest, Red Earth, Blue Sea*
- 36** *First in Flight: The Woman Behind the Wright Brothers*
a review by Rebecca Godwin
■ Tracey Enerson Wood, *Katharine, the Wright Sister*
- 38** *From Peaks to Pirates: Mysteries of North Carolina*
a review by Benjamin Bradley
■ Carol Ann Collins, *The Seafarer's Secret*
■ Archer Sullivan, *The Witch's Orchard*
- 42** *Lifting the Veil: The Invisible World of Mental Health Care*
a review by Donna Summerlin
■ Hannah Thurman, *Mercy Hill*
- 44** *Coming of Age and Finding Faith*
a review by Jon Kesler
■ Austin Allran, *The Legend of the Isle of Cats*
- 47** "a voice out here in the chaos"
a review by Barbara Bennett
■ Jason Mott, *People Like Us*
- 50** *Between Legacy and Liberation*
a review by Abby Trzepacz
■ Tracy Deonn, *Oathbound*
- 53** *Journey Through Forgetful Skies and Crash Landings: Near-Future Young Adult Literature*
a review by Alyssa Froemel
■ Beth Revis, *Full Speed to a Crash Landing*
■ Lauren Yero, *Under This Forgetful Sky*
- 56** *Stories of Self-Acceptance*
a review by Mark I. West
■ Vanessa Brantley-Newton, *Becoming Vanessa*
■ Maya Myers, *Not Perfect*



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 6** ■ **Military Writing in North Carolina**
poetry, creative nonfiction, and a book review
- 58** ■ **North Carolina Miscellany**
poetry, fiction, and book reviews