

PRESS RELEASE

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*North Carolina Literary Review*

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***NCLR ONLINE EXPLORES WRITING TOWARD HEALING***

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The 2021 online issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* is available now and can be accessed from the literary magazine's website [here](#).

The *NCLR* staff invites the public to attend the virtual online issue launch, hosted on Zoom by the ECU Alumni Association, at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 23. This event is free and open to the public. It will feature creative nonfiction readings by the 2020 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize honorees, as *NCLR* is currently accepting submissions to the 2021 competition. Register (free) here to receive the Zoom link: <https://www.piratealumni.com/NCLR2021>

The 2021 online includes an interview with Belle Boggs, author of *The Art of Waiting: On Fertility, Medicine, and Motherhood* and the novel *The Gulf*; creative writing by honorees and finalists in *NCLR*'s competitions, including Glenis Redmond's second-place essay for the 2020 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize competition, "On Beauty; or, a Reluctant Beauty Queen"; over 50 reviews of books by North Carolina writers; and news of the year's North Carolina literary awards, with links to watch many of the acceptance remarks online, reflecting how North Carolina adapts to celebrate the state's rich literary history even during a pandemic. The issue's cover features art inspired by COVID-19 by ECU Professor Cynthia Bickley-Green.

This year's theme, Writing Toward Healing, was decided upon before the pandemic, according to the editor, Margaret D. Bauer, who reports that the topic was inspired by "the need for healing in the country, politically, and the world, environmentally." A couple of pieces in the issue relate to or at least reference coronavirus, but the predominant focus is on writing to address loss, from death or estrangement, of people, places, once-shared values. "Writers tend to seek understanding through writing," Bauer says. "And understanding can lead to healing. Hence the title we finally decided upon: *Writing Toward Healing*."

Access *NCLR Online* 2021 from the literary magazine's website [here](#). Access is open to the public. Readers are welcome to enjoy and share the content and invited to subscribe to receive the 2021 print issue, with all new content. *NCLR* 2021, to be published in the summer, will be the 30<sup>th</sup> annual print issue of this award-winning publication, produced at East Carolina University. The print issue, which will also feature *Writing Toward Healing*, includes an essay by Lenoir-Rhyne University Professor Laura Hope-Gill on narrative medicine; a public address by Director of Carolina K-12 Christie Hinson Norris on "Writing the Darkness Away"; ECU Chair of the Faculty Purificación Martínez's opening address to the faculty at the start of this odd school year, exploring what ails higher education and how higher education can help to heal this country; interviews with beloved NC author Lee Smith and with debut novelist Annette Clapsaddle, author of *Even as We Breathe*, the first novel published by a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; the winners and additional honorees of *NCLR*'s creative writing competitions; and more. Find subscription information on the *NCLR* website [here](#).

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