

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

The premier issue of *NCLR*, edited by Alex Albright and designed by Eva Roberts, was published in 1992, introducing readers to a new kind of magazine/journal, which, with its variety of articles and mixed media, would appeal to a general reading public as well as to the academic community. I became Editor in 1997, and *NCLR* 2002, the 10th anniversary issue, is the fifth with me at the helm. This issue was designed by several different graphic designers, including former art director Mary Thiesen, who came on board when I did and taught me what to appreciate in a good designer, and Stephanie Whitlock, who now designs the majority of the contents and helps me put the issue together for the printers. My thanks to these two graphic artists and to the other designers (listed in the frontmatter) of this issue's contents.

Throughout all of the sections of this 2002 issue, we celebrate *NCLR*'s 10th anniversary: the contents include articles on special feature topics covered in past issues, as well as creative writing and book reviews that hearken back to previous issue topics. Even the serialized Dictionary of North Carolina Writers pauses in its progression through the alphabet and, instead of proceeding to the "N's," returns to add entries from A to M, many of whom are new on the North Carolina literary scene since earlier installments.

Beginning with our next issue, by the way, we plan to include a new section for similar flashbacks to past topics. Consult our website for back issues' contents to see what we've already covered and then for our guidelines for submission, as well as a form to order any of the back issues that interest you. **All back issues are available for purchase from the *NCLR* office.** See their tables of contents on our website.

Please also see our website (www.ecu.edu/nclr) if your subscription expires with this issue. **We are no longer including renewal forms with the issues, so please check your mailing label for your expiration year.**

You will find a subscription/renewal form on the website, which we ask you to print out and use to renew or to subscribe if you purchased this issue from a bookstore. Unless the North Carolina budget crisis forces a year's hiatus from publication, the 2003 issue will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first flight. (Your renewal or new subscription will help to prevent a publishing delay).

NCLR is an ambitious publication, produced by a team, most of whom volunteer their service. I continue my expressions of gratitude this year with such volunteers: On staff with me since I began is senior associate editor Lorraine Hale Robinson, to whom I remain grateful for all of her editorial service, evidence of which is within just about every page of this and the previous four issues, not just where her byline appears. And all of her hard work is

done as a volunteer. I also thank Sally Lawrence, who (also voluntarily) redesigned our website. And I thank poetry editor Jeff Franklin (another volunteer) for his continued participation, as well as assistant editor Randall Martoccia, who (you guessed it) volunteers his service to *NCLR*.

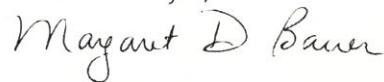
I would also like to express my appreciation to the English Department of East Carolina University for its invaluable contribution each year of two graduate assistants to serve as *NCLR*'s senior assistant editors. This year I was again blessed with two amazing young women, Melissa Edmundson and Celeste Pottier, who handled many of *NCLR*'s business matters (allowing me to focus on the content of the issue at hand) and much of the formatting and proofing of this content as it all progressed from original submission to publication. I only wish that I could hire Melissa and Celeste as permanent members of *NCLR*'s staff, but I wish them well as they move toward completing their master's degrees and then going on to the next adventures of their lives.

I thank ECU's English Department, too, for its contribution to our budget, for graduate and undergraduate interns from the Technical and Professional Communication program, for the help of the office staff with paying bills, and for the expertise of various faculty members who served on this year's editorial board (see frontmatter for names). And I thank the College of Arts and Sciences, also for the help of office staff members with our budget matters, and especially for the assistance of Associate Dean Todd Berry, whose endeavors helped *NCLR* to go to press during this time of budgetary crisis. Finally, as always, I thank ECU's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for their continued financial support.

Speaking of fiscal matters, I ask readers whose personal finances allow, to make a donation to *NCLR*. This issue's publication funds reverted to the state due to the budget crisis, so we need to raise money in order to make up this loss and not run the risk of being unable to go to press with the 2003 issue. See page 182 for the perpetual listing of *NCLR* "Friends," to which we would be happy (and grateful) to add your name!

And while you're donating/renewing/subscribing, order those back issues that you need to complete your set, or order another copy of this issue for a friend, and -

Let us hear from you,



Margaret D. Bauer
Editor