

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

We hope that this year's issue will be enjoyed by the whole family! In it you will find two stories for children, including one by Mebane Holoman Burgwyn, the 1947 and 1970 recipient of the Award for Juvenile Literature given by the North Carolina Division of the American Association of University Women, and the other by the most recent recipient of this award, Carole Boston Weatherford (who also won it in 2002). As always, editing this issue of *NCLR* has been a learning experience, and the introductions to what wonderful writers for children and young adults we have living (and who have lived) in North Carolina have, indeed, been invigorating – so much so that we are going to press the earliest ever. We are also happy to open the special feature section on Children's and Young Adult Literature in North Carolina with an essay on Randall Kenan, who spoke with regular *NCLR* interviewer Sheryl Cornett about what he read while growing up in eastern North Carolina.

The *NCLR* staff has been busy this year, participating, in ECU's second Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming in the fall, and handling the Doris Betts Fiction Prize competition for the North Carolina Writers Network this spring. Jill McCorkle played important roles in both of these events, and we thank her for being the keynote speaker at the Literary Homecoming and the final judge for the Betts Prize. (See McCorkle's own work discussed in Barbara Bennett's article on teaching *Ferris Beach* in high schools, also in the special feature section.)

We drew from a largely new set of writers and scholars for publication recommendations on the submissions to this issue, and we thank these colleagues, local and national, for their time and advice and recognize them in the issue's editorial board listing. I also appreciate the continued help of *NCLR*'s associate and assistant editors, two of whom I want to recognize in particular: Marinella Macri, who has screened the fiction submissions for the past couple of years and taken time to provide feedback to writers; and Maryscot Mullins, who selected most of the art for this issue's creative writing. Marinella has left ECU for another job opportunity, and Maryscot is finishing up her master's degree; we will miss them both very much and wish them well.

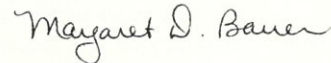
We appreciate the continued support of East Carolina University's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, "now under new management," and we welcome Dean Alan R. White to ECU and thank him for his continued support (including regularly restocking the latest issue to hand out to visitors to the College). We also thank ECU's English

Department for its contribution to our budget and editorial staff; the office staffs of both the English Department and Harriot College for their help with managing our budget; ECU's Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, without whose support we could not print this publication; and the North Carolina Literary & Historical Association for its continued financial and subscription contributions.

And speaking of subscriptions, subscribers should **check their mailing labels for subscription expiration dates**. If your subscription expires with this issue or if you are not yet a subscriber, please go to our website at www.ecu.edu/nclr for a subscription/renewal form. Or, you can join our affiliate, the North Carolina Literary & Historical Association (see www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/affiliates/lit-hist/lit-hist.htm); an augmented membership with "Lit & Hist" includes a subscription to *NCLR*. Your renewal, new subscription, back issue purchase, or donation helps to ensure the continuation of this publication. (Donors will be added to our list of "Friends," which appears in each issue.)

You're all our friends, and we enjoy the letters and emails from our readers letting us know how you like each issue. So —

Let us hear from you,



Margaret D. Bauer
Editor



NCLR Editor Margaret Bauer (right) speaking to Jan DeBlied at the 2005 Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, held on the campus of East Carolina University, 14-15 Oct. 2005.