

## Fond Farewells and Other Miscellany

Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

Under the leadership of Dean Larry Boyer, the J.Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University has recently acquired the Stuart Wright Collection, introduced by Fred Chappell in his essay that opens this section. The literary riches certain to be discovered in this collection are reflected in the previously unpublished Robert Penn Warren poem following this essay. The Stuart Wright Collection is one of many gifts Dean Boyer leaves with us as he retires this summer, and it is with sadness and affection that we say good-bye. Larry arrived in Greenville to begin his too brief tenure here just after the 2006 Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming. He recognized right away that this was an event (hosted by Joyner Library since 2004) to be continued. His support has helped the Literary Homecoming to evolve and continue, and those of us who participate in this Eastern North Carolina celebration of the state's writers will miss him. But we wish both Larry and Sue, his wife, all good things and much happiness as they turn their attention to enjoying their grandchildren.

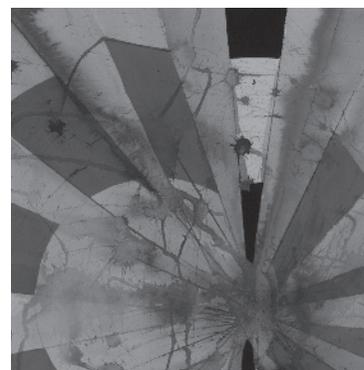
The Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming brings into this sometimes neglected part of the state such writers as award-winning novelist Zelda Lockhart, who conducted a workshop and also read from her work at the 2011 festival. Read the inspiring interview with Zelda in this section, and writers, be reminded that you can write anywhere. You just have to make time to do it, to "integrate writing into [your] everyday life," she says.

Motivated by Zelda's advice and encouragement, please send what you write to *NCLR*. Consult the submission guidelines on our website to read about the special feature section topic for 2013 and to find out when to send your work; deadlines vary according to genre. As we've announced in previous issues, fiction and poetry submissions are now read for the competitions we manage (the Doris Betts Fiction Prize competition for the North Carolina Writers Network) and

sponsor (our own new James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition, which I introduced in last year's issue.) Winners and selected finalists from these competitions will be published in our pages the next year.

We congratulate the first-place winner of the Doris Betts Fiction Prize (from the 2011 competition), Thomas Wolf, and the second-place winner, Joseph Francis Cavano. Both stories are published in this section. These stories remind us of the great gift and the great loss of Doris Betts, who taught so many writers and contributed to their literary legacies, even as she created her own. With such masterpieces of the genre as "The Ugliest Pilgrim," Doris Betts set a high standard for short story writers, and we appreciate the opportunity to award in her name writers who strive toward the goal of crafting a story that, like hers, might make it into classroom discussions, as well as into a stage and a film adaptation. Doris Betts will be greatly missed by her family, friends, colleagues, and students, but she will never be farther away than the memories they cherish, the nearest library, or their own writing places, where they can recall and put into practice the many lessons she left for us all.

We are also proud to publish in this section the winning poem of the first James Applewhite Poetry Prize, selected by James Applewhite himself. Congratulations to John Thomas York, and thank you to him for joining us in Greenville last September to receive his award from James Applewhite and to read his poem at the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming. Here too we publish several poems by finalists and semifinalists, and you can read more finalists' poems in *NCLR Online 2012*. Early next year, look for more finalists of this competition and the honorable mention stories from the 2012 Betts competition in *NCLR Online 2013*. The 2012 Betts Prize winner, announced recently, will be published in this section of the 2013 print issue, along with 2012 Applewhite Prize winner.



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We draw your attention, also, to the fine art included in this section and throughout the issue. Our state is home to many emerging artists, as well as to those who are nationally and internationally recognized. *NCLR* is proud to present such artists in our literary forum, which reminds me to remind you to please subscribe to *NCLR* if you aren't a subscriber – or join the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and receive *NCLR* as part of your membership benefits. In the current age, in which governing bodies that decide where funding is directed sometimes lose sight of the value of the Humanities to developing the whole person, it is vital that all of us, individually and collectively, step up to maintain sources of fine art and literature that feed the soul. Please help *NCLR* to continue promoting and supporting writers who are a part of our state's rich literary tradition. ■

LEFT Larry Boyer, Dean of Academic Library Services at ECU, and *NCLR* Editor Margaret Bauer enjoying the 2010 Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, Greenville, NC

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