

Waxing Nostalgic

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

NCLR readers were introduced to Steve Mitchell, the 2021 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize winner, through a short story we published in 2010. That story, “Platform,” is still among my favorites of all of the fiction we’ve published over my 25 years as editor. We’ve since reviewed two of his books, including a short fiction collection that includes “Platform” and a novel. Now, here he is with an essay. It is not atypical of North Carolina’s talented writers to write in multiple genres, but I remain impressed.

With this essay and an earlier short story, we feature photography by Tim Christensen, a colleague here at ECU – from the Biology Department. We first introduced Tim to *NCLR* for one of last year’s essays, and I thought of his celestial images immediately upon reading Steve’s essay. I appreciate the opportunity to share more of his work again so soon – and as you can see from his appearance in the feature section, too, he has quite a range for his photography.

Second place recipient in the 2021 James Applewhite Poetry Prize contest is UNC Chapel Hill alumnus Allen Tullos. Submitting from his Georgia home, though new to our pages, he is included as a flashback to the “North Carolina Expatriates” featured in 2020. His poem is complemented, as it turns out, by the work of Susan Harbage Page, an artist who emigrated from Ohio to make a home here. She is on the faculty at UNC Chapel Hill but also lives part-time in Italy.

Welcome back to repeat Applewhite Prize finalist Janis Harrington, whose poem was selected for third place in the 2021 competition. I was pleased to see Art Editor Diane Rodman’s selection of art by Tama Hochbaum to complement Janis’s poem. Tama last appeared in *NCLR* as the cover artist in 1999 – my second issue as editor and still among my favorite of all of our issue covers. (Shout-out here to former Art Director Mary Hatch Thiesen, who designed the cover.)

I’ll take this space to thank Diane Rodman, who is now fifteen years in as *NCLR*’s Art Editor, for her art selections to complement the creative writing throughout the 2022 issues. And knowing what she would say in response, I thank, on behalf of both of us (and the writers), all of the artists for allowing us to feature their work, which plays such an important role in *NCLR*’s mission. ■

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