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***NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY REVIEW* CELEBRATES NORTH CAROLINA
“ON THE MAP AND IN THE NEWS”**

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The collage of images on the new online issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review*, which Art Director Dana Ezzell Lovelace designed for the cover, reflects the 2018 special feature topic, “North Carolina on the Map and in the News.” In this year’s issues of the award-winning literary magazine produced at East Carolina University, writers explore what makes North Carolina famous and, at times, infamous. As *NCLR* editor Margaret Bauer states in her introduction to *NCLR Online* 2018, “North Carolinians can find writers to be proud of, to brag about, from the western end of the state that produced Robert Morgan and Ron Rash to Eastern North Carolina, where Reynolds Price was born and to which Vivian Howard returned to open her restaurant, produce her television show, and write her cookbook/memoir.” There are also some dark chapters in the state’s history, Bauer says, and North Carolina writers are not averse to exploring those, as evidenced by their coming together to express publicly their dismay at the discriminatory HB2 law passed in 2016. In the more distant past, the 1929 mill strikes in Gastonia made national news, particularly after the killing of a young factory worker that left her five children orphans. That strike inspired Gastonia native Wiley Cash’s new novel, *The Last Ballad*, also reviewed in this section.

Elsewhere in the issue, writers pay tribute to writers the state has lost this past year, former North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, among others. *NCLR Online* 2018 also includes several poems that were finalists in the 2017 James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition, and W.A. Polf’s short story, “Banjo,” which received second place in the 2017 Doris Betts Fiction Prize competition. First place winners of these competitions and additional Applewhite finalists will be published in the print issue, due out in the summer. That issue will feature interviews with Vivian Howard and Bland Simpson and essays by Bland Simpson and Margaret Maron.

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