

# NCCU loses longtime faculty members

Two longtime members of the department of English died within a week of one another recently.

William Edward Farrison, professor emeritus of English, died Feb. 18.

Mrs. Minnie Pearson Turner Spaulding, 77, who taught at NCCU for 17 years, died Feb. 14 after a brief illness.

Farrison is one of the two people for whom the Farrison-Newton Communications Building was named.

He taught at the university from 1939 until he retired and was named professor emeritus in 1970. He served as chairman of the department of English from 1939 to 1960.

Farrison was the author of *William Wells Brown: Author and Reformer* (University of Chicago Press, 1969). The book was the first full

biography of Brown, thought to be the first black American to publish a novel. Farrison also edited a scholarly edition of Brown's novel *Clotel; Or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States*.

Mrs. Spaulding taught at NCCU from 1956 until she retired in 1973. During her tenure at NCCU she was co-director of the Honors Program and a founding member of the NCCU Museum of Art's board of directors and was chairman at the time of her death.

Farrison was a co-editor with Hugh M. Gloster and Nathaniel Tillman of *My Life, My Country, My World: College Readings for Modern Living* in 1952. He contributed numerous articles and book reviews to scholarly journals throughout his life.

He was an early president of the College Language Association and a member of several other civic and professional organizations.

Mrs. Spaulding taught for 26 years at Hillside High School. She was born in Durham and graduated from Durham public schools.

Before coming to what was then North Carolina College for Negroes in 1939, Farrison had taught at Lincoln University (1928-1930), West Virginia State (1930-32), and Bennett College (1932-39).

He graduated *magna cum laude* from Lincoln University in 1926 and earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1930 and a doctorate from Ohio State University in 1936.

Mrs. Spaulding earned a bachelor's degree in English from Howard University in 1928 and a master's degree from NCCU in 1956.

She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a former president of the National Barrister's Wives, a former president of the

Durham Chapter of the Links and a member of numerous other civic organizations.

Farrison was born August 19, 1902 in Orangeburg County, S.C.

He is survived by his wife Alice N. Farrison, also a longtime teacher in the department of English.

Mrs. Spaulding is survived by her husband, lawyer C.C. Spaulding Jr. Surviving, in addition to her husband, are three sons, a stepson, a sister, a brother and eight grandchildren.

## Alphas project praised by mayor

By Helen Eagleson

Two members of the Gamma Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity have designed a program which promotes a big brother role model for youngsters ages 7-12.

Marty Comer, a 1984 graduate of NCCU, and William Barber developed project Lift, an acronym for (love insures a future for tomorrow) as a means of helping young men develop positive attitudes about themselves and their futures.

The project, which the fraternity presented at the 1984 Alpha Phi Alpha convention, includes tutoring sessions, informing youngsters about Black History, pro-

viding social activities for participants and allowing them to attend church with members of the fraternity.

Lift currently has 15 active participants and is located at John Avery Boys Club on Alston Avenue.

Because the project possesses so many positive qualities, Mayor Charles Markham presented the fraternity with a proclamation declaring Lift a city wide project.

The fraternity will present Lift at the regional convention in Birmingham, Ala. to be implemented as a project in South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and North Carolina.

## Public Administration to present talent show

The Public Administration Club will sponsor its annual Extravaganza of Talent April 11th, in the B.N. Duke Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Outstanding participants will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place prizes and members of the audience will be eligible for door prizes.

If you would like to display your talent, You can sign up in the Cafeteria, or contact the

Public Administration Program (PAP) at 683-6018 or 683-6549. Deadline for applications are March 8.

The Public Administration Club will hold auditions March 19-25 and will contact you to schedule a convenient time for your act.

The club will also present a special tribute to the 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration.

## NCCU grad to present computer art

With so many uses for the computer, is it possible that one day there could be computer art?

William O' Farrow believes so.

O'Farrow, an NCCU graduate is currently researching various computer graphic approaches that will facilitate the incorporation of the computers such as the Apple IIe as an effective education tool.

These approaches are designed to be easily managed by the novice programmer. The computer graphics method developed at Brogden Middle School, where O'Farrow is an art instructor, is the only one of its kind implemented in the Durham City School System's Cultural Arts Department.

The program provides students with a unique problem-solving task that merges specific aspects of computer graphics with traditional artistic concepts

O'Farrow will present a computer graphics demonstration that features High resolution graphics, LOGO turtle graphics, and KOALA touchpad generated graphic techniques March 24, at 4:00 p.m. in the Alfonso Elder Student Union.

## English club plans diverse semester activities

By Tammy L. Capehart

The NCCU English Club's spring plans include reports on the Howard Communication Conference and fund-raising activities.

On Tuesday and Thursday of this past week, the club held a book discussion on A

Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines at 10:40 a.m. in the English Library.

On March 5, Treva Mclean, Trudy Rogers, Calvin Williams, and Karen Jarnagin will give reports on the Howard University Communications Conference.

They will discuss the conference as a whole, providing helpful information for underclassmen. The reports will be given at 10:40 a.m. in the English Library.

March 26, the club will sponsor a Flea Market and Bake Sale at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Communications Building. The funds will be used to help pay for special events that the club has sponsored throughout year.

On April 20 at 8:00 p.m., the English Club will attend **Ceremonies In Dark Old Men**—a famous drama portraying ghetto life—performed by the Negro Ensemble Company. Acclaimed actors Douglas Turner Ward and Robert Hooks of *Roots* are among the members of the NEC who will be performing. The drama will be held at the Stuart Theater on the N.C. State University campus.

April 23, there will be a Senior Tea at 10:40 a.m. in the English Library.

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## English prof. to present talk on slave narrative

By Quentin Sinclair

"The Name and the Nature of the Slave Narrative," a lecture by Dr. John Sekora, professor in the department of English, is scheduled for April 10th, 3:45 p.m., in the seminar room of the Communications building.

The lecture is sponsored by the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. A reception in the English Library will follow.

Sekora, the author of *The Art of the Slave Narrative: Essays in Literature Books and Slave Narrative: Art and Authority in America's First Literary Genre*, has a strong background in the study of the slave narrative. At present he is writing a third book on the subject, *William Wells Brown and the Afro-American Practice of Narrative*.

Sekora has had a distinguished education. He earned an A.M. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1972 from Princeton University. From 1967 to 1969 Sekora was a Fulbright Fellow in England, where he was a lecturer in Afro-American Studies at the Institute of Race Relations. He was a Fellow at the National Humanities Center from 1982-1983. Since 1983 Dr. Sekora has been an English Professor at NCCU.