

NC writers share diverse cultures

By TOMIKA KORNEGAY

On Tuesday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 11, Wayne Community College celebrated cultural diversity by highlighting North Carolina writers.

Marijo Moore and Lenard D. Moore read from their works on Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Mr. Moore read poetry from his book "Forever Home." He read some of his haikus about Desert Storm and the Million Man March.

Mr. Moore, who holds an M.A. in African American Literature from NC State A&T, read some of his blues and jazz poems. He said he writes rap poems as well.

Moore explained that many of his works are influenced by the bad times black people have experienced.

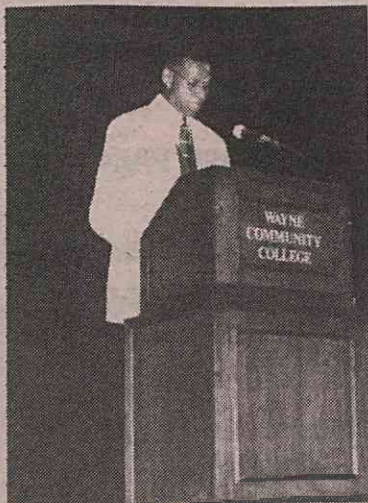
Marijo Moore, writer and poet, also read from her works.

Moore is the founder and publisher of the Renegade Press which specializes in the publication of native American Indian writing.

Her family were the only full-blooded Cherokees in Western Tennessee in a small town called Crockett Mills.

When Margaret Baddour, Humanities instructor and organizer of the event, introduced Moore, she called her "a mistress of dreams."

Marijo Moore said during her presentation that she believes in the power of dreams and in the healing power of words.



Gerald Simmons moderated the panel on Wednesday.

Moore was visited by grandfather in her dreams. These dreams inspired her to write about her Indian heritage.

She worked with Indian children and then the dreams appeared again. She read from her book of poems, "Spirit Voices of Bones."

Marijo Moore also talked about the women in her tribe. These women were highly respected. If they were to be killed, 2 people would be killed from the murderer's family.

On Wednesday, March 11, at 11:00 a.m., Lenard Moore read his works from "Homeplace." This poem is about his childhood experiences and memories.

On Wednesday at 11 a.m., Marijo Moore and Lenard Moore were accompanied by 3 other writers--Fe Finch, a Spanish teacher at WCC; Angela Aguigui, a college transfer student at WCC; and Dr. David Rigsby, head of the English department at Mt. Olive College.

Fe Finch, a native of Cuba, came to the United States at age 6.

Finch's parents fought in the revolution with Castro, but they were forced to leave Cuba because they refused to join the communists.



Dr. Edward H. Wilson Jr., WCC's President welcomes Marijo Moore.



Panelists included Lenard Moore, Fe Finch, Angela Aguigui, Dr. David Rigsby, and Marijo Moore

Finch shared lithographs on display that her daughter had drawn.

The lithographs reflect the experiences of her parents and grandparents.

The first piece of art depicted the Spanish and American flags. She explained the 4 colors in both of the flags.

Red, a symbol of blood, represents the people who died in the revolution.

She said white is a symbol of the cross meaning purity. Blue is a color of the American flag and black is a color of the Cuban flag.

Another speaker was Angela Aguigui, a native of Guam and student at WCC who read an original essay entitled "Metaphor."

She moved to NC when she entered the fourth grade.

Also on the panel was Dr. David Rigsby, graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dr. Rigsby read from his book "Trailers."

He raised the question: why are trailers taking over the landscape and why do we have so many?

He said the book combined memoir and theory as it depicted photographs of mobile homes, seeing the trailer as a hermitage.

Dr. Rigsby said that modern society does not respect tradition, claiming that modern society honors space, not time.

He sees trailers as a more American house than any other kind.



Lenard Moore, right foreground, and Marijo Moore sign copies of their books for students and guests. PHOTOS: TOMIKA KORNEGAY