

# Local writer gains fame with novel

**MARK HOLLOMAN**  
Sports Editor

Rocky Mount native Allan Gurganus has become the first writer from this area to hit the New York Times best seller list.

Gurganus, who was born here but now lives in New York City, wrote his book *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* over a period of ten years.

The book tells the story of Lucy Morrester, a 99 year old widow who was married to the last soldier from the Civil War. The book tells of her hardships, both with and without her husband.

Gurganus, who is on a 31 city tour to promote the book, says that he is "extraordinarily happy" to kick off the promotion in his own hometown.

The book is Gurganus's first, making the accomplishment all the more remarkable. The book has been selected as the main title for September by the Book-of-the-Month Club.



Photo by Jennifer Townsend

**Returning home is a joy**  
Gurganus socializes with old friends at Wesleyan. He read from his book, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*.

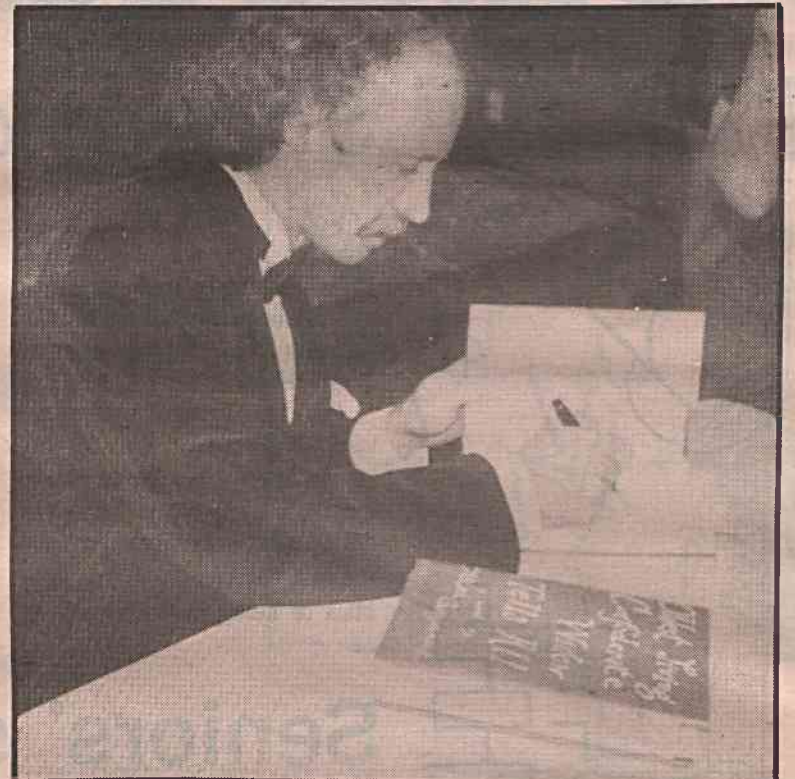


Photo by Jennifer Townsend

**Autographs, anyone?**  
After reading from his book, Gurganus signs extra copies.

# Journalists take on new challenges



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## Smile!

Deborah Kincheloe stands beside the bookcase that contains her research for her novel. This research is proof of two years of extensive work on the Vietnam War. Her novel involves a young woman coming-of-age in a very turbulent time in the nation's history.

**DANA BURGESS**  
Copy Editor

English teachers Deborah Kincheloe and Rosa Leonard are busy people these days. Besides their all-day teaching jobs, they are hard at work on literary projects.

Kincheloe is in the process of writing a novel set in the Vietnam era. The book is based on some of Kincheloe's own experiences. This coming-of-age novel chronicles the young girl's turbulent journey into adulthood during a very confusing time in our nation's past.

Over the past two years, Kincheloe has done extensive research for her novel. She has gone to military archives to collect, read, and incorporate accurate Vietnam information into her novel. She has also talked to people who served in the Vietnam War, and families who lost loved ones in the war.

Leonard is involved in another aspect of journalism-book

publishing. She read local author Mary Lewis Dean's manuscript *Like the Moon* and decided to publish it. Leonard named the publishing company Flatrock Books because it was at Flatrock that she first read the manuscript.

Entrepreneur Leonard headed for the library for a how-to book on publishing. "You do not learn to start a business by just reading about it," she said. "All the advice in the books told me just what to do, but no one warned me that the book manufacturing company would file for bankruptcy the day the galleys were due."

"Fortunately, that was the only unforeseen event that I faced," Leonard added.

*Like the Moon*, the company's first title, goes on sale Oct. 7 at the Pumpkin Festival in Spring Hope. "Lulu Quillen, the story's narrator, will catch you in her spell as she tells all Hart Country's secrets," Leonard said. *Fledgling*, Flatrock Book's second title, will be available in April.



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**Time to relax**  
Rosa Leonard relaxes at Flatrock while reading over her manuscript.