

Masterson, President NC Business, Professional Women's Association, Attends Washington Conference on Social Security, Women's Issues

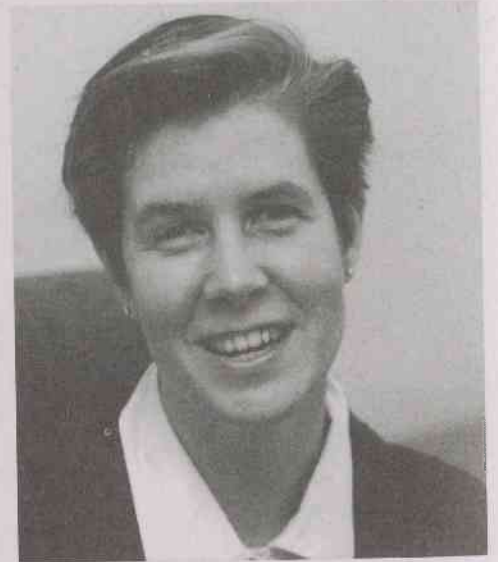
Mary Beth Koelle

In Brevard College's Financial Aide Office sits a quiet, dignified woman whose mere appearance commands respect: Lianne Masterson, Director of Financial Aid. Mrs. Masterson is currently President of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women's Association, a post she was elected to in 1998 by the members of the Association. As president of the Association, Mrs. Masterson attended the February 1999 Policy and Action Conference in Washington, D.C. Focusing on Social Security reform and other issues concerning women, the Conference scheduled Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al

Gore, as keynote speaker.

Unfortunately unable to attend the actual conference, Mrs. Gore, however, did hold a reception at her home in Washington. Mrs. Masterson was one of the fortunate few invited to attend this private gathering in what she describes as "a beautiful, if not intricate, southern style house." Addressing social security issues in a speech that Mrs. Masterson describes as "a little shorter than expected," Tipper was "very cordial and well-spoken." Primary of her obvious concerns was Social Security Reform and how it affects women and families. The North Carolina Business and

Professional Women's Association, an 80 year-old organization of 42,000 women across the nation, works to promote women to influential professional positions in order to afford them a stronger foothold in today's society. Mrs. Masterson, a graduate of University of Tennessee and Western Carolina University, has been a member of the Association since 1987. In addition to serving as President, Mrs. Masterson has also functioned as the organization's District Director, State Recording Secretary, First Vice President, President Elect, and President of the Brevard local organization.



Poetry Awards Abound for BC's Dr. Ken Chamlee

Mary Beth Koelle and Shannon McGuigan

For Dr. Kenneth Chamlee, Chair of the Division of Humanities and Coordinator of the English major here at Brevard College, poetry is the "connection between the written word and the way I want to express myself." Forced to memorize poetry by his 11th grade English teacher, poet and professor Chamlee was at first less than "crazy about poetry." Twenty-five years later, his emotions run quite differently. Today, Dr. Chamlee is an avid and active poet who is growing daily in his poetic notoriety. In fact, this spring semester has been quite a memorable one for the good Doctor. He has won not one, but five poetry awards in a matter of just a few weeks.

Chamlee's "Oh Blessed Rage for Order," submitted to the Georgia State Review's national writing competition won the \$1,000 first place award in the poetry division. Next in line was ByLine Magazine's national

poetry chapbook competition. Here again, Chamlee topped the \$100 award list by taking first prize: the publishing of a chapbook. Entitled *Absolute Faith*, Dr. Chamlee's book is set to come out in June. Moving on to yet the next award, Dr. Chamlee won the \$100 first place prize for his poem "Words" in the "River of Words" poetry competition sponsored by The Rome Area Council for the Arts in Rome, GA.

Hold on; the list is not done yet. While reading one of many writers' magazines, Dr. Chamlee discovered a residency competition sponsored by the Vermont Studio Center, an artists' colony. Awards, based solely on talent, comprise a one-month residency at the colony. In October and November of '99, Dr. Chamlee will reside for four weeks at one of six VSC houses in Johnson, a small Vermont village. Here, according to the VSC online brochure, 50 international residents from a variety of backgrounds will join together in a "supportive work environment

free of judgment, hierarchy, and competition." More important than his mere room and board, Dr. Chamlee will be afforded "the space and time to write" among the residents (musicians, artists, and writers) awarded this honor each month. Dr. Chamlee will be one of about 12 writers representing four different genres: fiction, non-fiction, playwriting, and poetry. According to Chamlee, it is this time that every artist needs.

Finally, Dr. Chamlee's submission to the Writers' Conference and Fellowship (WCF) resulted in a scholarship to one of the Fellowship's prestigious conferences in its membership. In August, Dr. Chamlee will attend the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, a well known, highly sought after artist community in Middlebury, Vermont. The WCF will contribute \$500 toward the cost of this conference.

Additional to all this national notoriety, Dr. Chamlee is also this year's recipient of

Brevard College's Johnnie H. Jones Distinguished Teaching Award. As such, Dr. Chamlee will travel to England this fall to continue and advance his writing and academic pursuits.

It is plain to see that with a love of poetry, not to mention immense talent, Brevard College's Dr. Chamlee has come far from that high school junior who did not care for poetry. Through imagination, hard work, and dedication to his craft, Chamlee has earned the attention now bestowed upon him as a writer. It is with this love and dedication to the art of writing that Dr. Chamlee now will devote considerably more time to the expansion of the new emphasis in creative writing for English majors here at the College. With several declaration of major forms specifying the creative writing emphasis, Chamlee is eager to promote more interest in the creative writing program. Evolved into "a writer who teaches, not a teacher who writes," Chamlee will bring much to the BC students and program.