



The Fortner Community and Writer Awards Recognize Four

By: Gary Greene

St. Andrews Presbyterian College honored five contributors to the arts community during the 22nd annual Ethel N. Fortner Writer and Community Awards on Thursday, Nov. 15.

While four of the recipients knew they were receiving the award, the fifth recipient did not.

Paul Baldasare, college president, surprised the coordinator of the Fortner Awards by presenting Ron Bayes with the prestigious award. Baldasare said it was only fitting that Bayes' name be among those listed who have received the award.

Others receiving the awards were poet and supporter of the arts Martha Cross "Nancy" Bradberry, Laurinburg Exchange Life Times Editor Dot Coble, poetry slam producer Todd Davis, and poet Robert Malloy.

"This award recognizes persons who have been outstanding contributors to the writing community creating a very real, positive community dynamic," said Bayes, Fortner Awards committee chair and St. Andrews writer-in-residence.

The Ethel N. Fortner Writer and Community Awards were instituted in 1986 to honor a friend of writers and frequent contributor to the St. Andrews Review. Fortner earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in New York. After a career in teaching at the Oregon School of the Blind, she and her husband moved to Estacada, Ore. She committed herself to writing and became editor of Human Voice Quarterly. A frequent contributor to the St. Andrews Review, she was the earliest benefactor of the St. Andrews Press. She believed that a full community embraced and encouraged the craft of writing.

Nancy Bradberry of Southern Pines has long been a poet and supporter of the arts. She was active in poetry circles in Sheridan, Wyo., where she received awards and recognition for her work. Her "other art form" is photography.

A former member of the St. Andrews Presbyterian College Board of Visitors, Bradberry currently serves as chair of the Friends of St. Andrews College Press.

She received the Sam Ragan Award for Contributions to the Fine Arts of North Carolina in 1995 and was one of five North Carolina women poets featured in the Quintessence anthology published by the St. Andrews Press.

"Her contributions to the St. Andrews writing community are so numerous that just last year the student literary magazine, Gravity Hill, established an annual Bradberry Prize," said Bayes. "The award is for an outstanding poem written in traditional rhyme and meter."

Rockingham native Dot N. Coble came to Laurinburg in June of 1970 and started work at the Laurinburg Exchange as a general reporter hired by John Henry Moore. Her initial work focused on reporting crime, accidents, fires, features, community news stories and activities. Yet her work soon moved toward the feature side and in 1972 she took over the society pages.

Coble used her insights and skills to transform those pages into a more modern section, known as Life Times. That section, currently appearing in every Wednesday and Friday edition of the Laurinburg Exchange, has brought attention to Coble in the area.

"Dot is an amazing contributor to the local community," said Bayes. "She has done so much not only to promote the work of the St. Andrews Press, but also everything in the Laurinburg community. Dot is a rare journalist in this day and age who finds the feel good story and shares the positive energy with the world."

Coble won awards from the North Carolina Press Association in the categories of news writing, feature writing and column writing. Scotland County organizations have recognized her with such honors as Outstanding Business and Professional Woman for Scotland County presented by the Pilot Club of Laurinburg, Club Member of the Year for the Laurinburg Junior Women's Club, and the Boy Scouts of America Western District Good News of Scouting Award.

Coble has spent much of her time in the Laurinburg community, having served on the 1996 Scotland County Board of Education Bond Referendum Campaign Committee to build news schools, various Laurinburg-Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce committees, ENCORE! Theatre Board of Directors, Scotland County Red Cross Board of Directors, and the Scotland County Arts Council Board of Directors. She currently serves on the Scotland County Aging Advisory Council, Scotland County 4-H Advisory Council and is a member of the Melancholy Babies Women's Barbershop Quartet.

She is a former member and Children's and Adult Choir director at Spring Hill Baptist Church in Wagram and is a current member of First Baptist Church in Laurinburg. She graduated from Rockingham High School and attended Pembroke State University.

Poet Todd Davis has published in numerous literary magazines and is the author of two books of poetry, Sun + Moon Rendezvous and Criminal Thawts. He worked in Seattle as a writer and performer for the award winning live comedy show Carlotta's Late Nite Wing Ding. For several years, Davis was the producer of the Seattle Poetry Slam, a nightclub poetry show which garnered national attention for its consistently high quality, its overflow crowds and its



Ron Bayes accepts his award. Photo courtesy of Rooney Coffman



Ms. Dot Coble accepts her award. Photo courtesy of Rooney Coffman

showcasing of the best performance poets in the country. He co-founded a nonprofit literary arts organization to support the Seattle Slam and served as vice president of the Board of Directors, Poetry Workshop Coordinator for schools and colleges in the Pacific Northwest, publicist and newsletter editor. He coproduced and performed on the Seattle Poetry Slam Live CD, a compilation of 24 of the best Seattle performance poets.

Davis received his B.A. degree in English from St. Andrews in 1971. He received his M.A. degree in Creative Writing from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. He currently resides in Asheville, N.C.

Recently retired Laurinburg Police Chief Robert Malloy has been writing poetry since his return from the Vietnam War. His first book, Words from the Heart, was well received on its appearance and he has two follow-up manuscripts. Malloy has read in many venues, including past appearances at the St. Andrews Writers' Forum, local civic organizations and in the public schools. Malloy's poems are often instructional, often inspirational and almost always celebratory of every day life despite its challenges. "He is the John Charles McNeill of our era, down-home, proud of it and ready to tell you why," said Bayes. "Robert could, with his marvelous reading projection, make you glad to listen to the telephone directory, but he has substance - and often humor - and a unique style."

A Cinderella Story

By: Maeghan Swann

Every little girl dreams about playing a part in a Cinderella story. Most are the princess trapped by the evil dragon but wearing a gorgeous dress. Some are a little more feisty and battle the dragon themselves while wearing the beautiful dress. Even when a girl is little she likes having the best of both worlds.

That is exactly what The Cinderella Project is striving to do, to give teenage girls the best of both worlds. The economic status of Scotland County is no secret and the impact on its citizens is apparent. The Cinderella Project aims to provide rental prom dresses to junior and senior high school girls for the cost of dry cleaning (approximately \$15).

By renting the dresses the girls do not suffer the self-esteem effects of receiving charity and do not have to worry about dry cleaning costs since monetary donations to the project will cover cleaning. The girls who come in for this service also have the chance to wear a different prom dress every year without the cost of buying another expensive gown every year

All sizes of prom dresses are needed from size 0 to 16+. Over 20 prom dresses/bridesmaid's gowns/evening gowns have been donated with a few that are hand-made. Dress shoes, jewelry, hair decorations, wraps/cover-ups, and unopened, new makeup are also needed. The dresses should be at least knee length and should not show the midriff. All donated items should be in a gently used, like new condition but no fake hair will be accepted. The project would be greatly helped if all dresses came dry cleaned and on a hanger in a clear plastic garment bag (may be a cheap garment bag). All sets of jewelry, hair jewels, etc. should be placed in clear Ziploc bags so the sets can be rented as one unit. Any donation that can not be used will be taken to the thrift store in town. Monetary donations will also be accepted to cover costs of dry cleaning and other expenses.

"Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are." (Luke 12:27). The

Lord calls us to be willing to be used to better the lives of others. A formal dress that is wasting away in the closet can be put towards a much greater cause. The girls we will serve are the lilies of the field and the Lord will use us to clothe them in compassion, consideration, and respect.

I am excited to get this project up and on its feet. I can be reached through email at swannmr@sapc.edu for questions or to turn in a donation.

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