

NCCU holds reception for children's literature conference

A reception for the Charlemae Hill Rollins colloquium (a conference whose goal is to promote positive images of African Americans in children's literature) will be held April 17 at 7 p.m. in the A.E. Student Union.

by Shelvia Dancy
Editor-in-Chief

Librarians and children's book authors and illustrators from across the southeast will gather at North Carolina Central University and UNC-Chapel Hill this weekend for the biennial Charlemae Hill Rollins colloquium.

The 20-year-old conference, established by Annette Phinazee, former dean of NCCU's School of Library Sciences, is held each year to promote positive images of African Americans in children's literature.

The event honors Charlemae Hill Rollins, an internationally recognized children's author and librarian at the Chicago Public Library. Rollins provided materials and information for a collection of manuscripts by African American authors that Phinazee established at NCCU in 1978.

NCCU will host the conference's reception on April 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the Alphonso Elder Student Union. The reception will honor people who have participated in the conference in previous years.

Dr. Pauletta Bracy, an associate professor in NCCU's School of Library and Information Sciences, will officially recognize those past participants.

Dr. Benjamin F. Speller Jr., dean of NCCU's School of Library and Information Sciences, will announce the winner of The Dean Annette L. Phinazee Award, awarded every two years to a librarian "who has made a significant contribution to promoting the use of African American literature in the state of North Carolina."

The recipient is given a medal, a cash award and will have her/his name engraved on a plaque housed in the School of Library and Information Sciences at NCCU.

UNC-Chapel Hill will host the conference sessions April 18 at the Friday Center. Sessions will open with "The Legacy of Charlemae Hill Rollins," presented by librarian Deborah Taylor.

Tom Feelings, an illustrator for children's books, will follow with his presentation called "Black Illustrators: Expanding the Children's Book Form Through Black Culture."

Spencer Shaw, professor emeritus at the University of Washington, will present "Storytelling and Oral Traditions in African American Culture" at 10:45 a.m.

The conference is co-sponsored by the State Library of North Carolina.

Reigning Miss NCCU sponsors easter egg hunt for first-graders

by Douglas G. Johnson II
Staff Writer

On April 8, reigning Miss NCCU Cheryl Woods held an Easter egg hunt for first-graders at the Burton GEO Magnet Center in Durham.

About 60 children attended the event, which was held on the lawn of the School of Law.

"I wanted to have a project during the year to give back to the community," said Woods. "We had raised money for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation and the Clifton Woods Memorial [an endowed scholarship to raise money for students who want to study abroad]. I wanted to do something for the children of the community."

Woods was assisted by 5 volunteers from NCCU's Student Union Activity Board, and approximately 20-25 other student volunteers, teachers, and parents.

Leslie Pittman, a senior public administration major from Charlotte, N.C., dressed up as the Easter Bunny.

Omega Psi Phi, Kappa Alpha Psi and Iota Phi Theta fraternities donated \$60 to the event. NCCU's bookstore offered a discount on NCCU banners to hang in each of the children's classroom.

Woods said she was especially grateful for the hard candy the Student Union Activity Board contributed.

Three first-grade classes from the GEO Magnet Center participated in the day's festivities, including a class taught by 1996 NCCU graduate Erika White.

Miss NCCU elect Erika Murphy attended the



A first-grader at the Burton GEO Magnet Center in Durham scouts for eggs during Miss NCCU's Easter egg hunt, held April 8.

Staff photo by Paul Phipps

Easter egg hunt.

"I'm very excited because whenever we allow our young to interact with students on the collegiate level it's always a very positive

experience," said Murphy. "I hope I'll be able to do more projects like Cheryl has." Projects like the Easter egg hunt are very beneficial to the community and I hope to follow in her footsteps."

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Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

WNCU 90.7 FM

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