

Festival to celebrate Southern literature

The April 1998 literacy festival will bring authors and publishers to UNC.

BY JON WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

A vibrant literary community and tremendous growth in publishing have made North Carolina the place to be if you love Southern literature.

So said representatives of the University's Center for the Study of the American South, who unveiled plans Thursday to host one of the first in a series of major literary festivals to celebrate southern writers and readers.

The festival, which will take place on UNC's campus, was spurred in part by a reaction of North Carolina writers to the Southern Festival of Books held in Nashville, Tenn. said David Hansen, director of the center.

"A common remark (with North Carolina writers) was why does Nashville have the festival and North Carolina have all the writers?" he said.

This concern prompted the center to plan a three-day virtual and literary festival from April 3 through April 5, 1998. The virtual part of the festival will be

undertaken in the next few months, said Rachel Davies, project director for the center. "We have received a technology grant from Chancellor Hooker," she said. "We will be able to hook up with the World Wide Web, and be able to hold interviews with authors and publishers who are local."

The literary part of the festival will be comprised of six different parts, Davies said.

"The six parts are readings and discussions, exhibits, performances, signings, workshops and lectures, and bookstore and publisher stalls," she said.

Author and Assistant Professor of creative writing Michael McFee said he welcomed the festival. "As a writer, as a reader, as a teacher, and as a member of North Carolina while it is in its literary prime, I would like to say it is about time," he said. "If you're looking for great literature and a lot of it, look right here in North Carolina."

Not only is the festival a great way to bring authors and publishers to Chapel Hill, but it is also a great opportunity for students to become involved, Davies said. "It is a wonderful opportunity for students to volunteer and be involved in all facets," she said.

"It's something that is going to take a lot of help from a lot of people."

WOOTEN

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topics concerning homosexuality.

"What I'd like to see at the end of the money is 10 or 12 courses regularly taught and a situation in which students didn't think it as strange to take a course in gay and lesbian studies," he said.

Gilbert said he had much respect for Wooten and his work with the committee.

"He is a very intelligent and fair-minded individual that uses excellent judgement," Gilbert said. "He has been a critical player in working with the endowment."

The Williamson Committee accepts proposals from professors, as well as student groups. As chairman, Wooten arranges meetings with the other committee members to discuss which proposals will be granted and then sends letters to notify which of them were accepted.

Wooten said the committee had not been bombarded with proposals, as he had first expected.

"We haven't been overwhelmed, but we have certainly received a respectable amount," he said. "I'm glad the money has not been used all at once. Spending a steady amount spread throughout several years will be more impactful. We are aiming for about \$40,000 per year."

The course development grants give

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LARRY GILBERT

Associate Vice Chancellor

professors awards of \$4,000 to devote time and research into developing a new course or revising an existing one within a period of two years.

Wooten said the two-year lag period in developing the courses was important because it gave the campus time to acquire interest for the new courses through the lectures and conferences also funded by the committee.

"The funded lectures and conferences scheduled each semester are plowing the ground or stimulating enough interest for success when the courses are eventually taught," he said.

Alice Kuzniar, who created "New Queer Cinema," said that because it was the first class dealing exclusively with contemporary gay and lesbian issues, she found it somewhat challenging to teach.

"I taught a class mixed with homo-

sexuals, heterosexuals and bisexuals, as well as graduates and undergraduates, so I found it difficult to ensure that everyone felt comfortable with the class, even though the students were very tolerant," said Kuzniar, a professor of Germanic languages and comparative literature.

"Many of the students were coming afresh to these topics, and they didn't have the vocabulary for dealing with these issues in an academic setting," Kuzniar said.

"But I hope my course was able to prepare the ground for future classes," she said.

Despite the obstacles, Kuzniar said that the class had been a success.

"It was very productive in the end," Kuzniar said.

Although Gilbert said it would probably take years to reveal the committee's impact, he said he believed that its results would be positive.

"It will be years before we know the impact on the educational process," he said. "But the people requesting the funds are some of our best faculty, so I am confident that it will be excellent."

Wooten echoed Gilbert's sentiments and said he hoped his work would have a lasting effect.

"One of my main goals as chairman is that the committee will have an ongoing impact on the University's curriculum."

TAX

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meal plans," he said. "We don't get to keep the extra tax, so we try to make things more affordable for students."

Campus stores that sell food but are not considered dining halls, such as Student Stores, must charge the 6 percent tax on all food purchases, Tufts said.

"The law is pretty strict," said Jim Powell, the controller at Student Stores. "If we could charge less, we would, but the state makes it clear that only dining halls can not charge the tax."

Off campus, where students don't benefit from preferential tax treatment, the new law should help ease the tax burden.

"If you buy a loaf of bread and a pound of salami at the Harris Teeter, the tax is 5 percent instead of last year's 6 percent," said Dick Stewart, an administrative officer at the state revenue department. "It's not a big savings, but for people on a tight budget, it will lighten the load."

The General Assembly linked the 1 percent reduction to food that can be legally purchased with food stamps, so the 6 percent rate still applies to items such as alcohol and tobacco.

"There is a long list of eligible items on the food stamps list," Stewart said. "But you don't need food stamps to get the savings. It's just used as a guideline."

CONGRESS

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can decide and weigh it, it's their money," he said.

Although several representatives changed their stance, the resolution failed, 12-12, after a second vote.

Nelson said Thursday that he did not plan to try to get the issue on the ballot. The only other way would be to collect about 2,100 student signatures — or 10 percent of the fee-paying students — in support of the referendum.

In other action, Student Congress approved a resolution to allow students to vote on removing the student body president's and the student body treasurer's ex officio membership status.

If the referendum passes, the student body president and the student body treasurer could not debate during Student Congress meetings, but could continue to submit legislation.

"I trust my constituents enough to send this to them and let them decide," said Rep. Bryan Kennedy, Dist. 4, who presented the resolution.

Several members voiced objections. "The student body president, being a representative of the board of trustees and to other boards on campus, should be allowed to have a right to speak in Congress," said Rep. Dara Whalen, Dist. 8.

Although the resolution failed at first, it later passed 19-7.

Split decision

Student Congress passed a resolution at its Wednesday night meeting that will allow students to decide if there should be ex officio membership in Student Congress. A second resolution failed that would have let students decide if student fees should be used to fund the United States Student Association. A two-thirds majority of the 33 members was needed to pass each resolution.

Student Congress members (district)	092 — USSA		095 — ex officio	
	1st vote	2nd vote	1st vote	2nd vote
Athwal, Amardeep (21)	N	Y	Y	Y
Bao, Shelly (11)	N	N	N	Y
Bentsen, Eric (22)	N	Y	N	Y
Cohen-Peyrot, Josh (16)	N	Y	A	A
Cole, Andrew (23)	N	—	N	N
Efird, Scott (17)	N	—	Y	Y
Erhardt, Liz (1)	A	Y	N	N
Fernandez, Andrés (21)	N	N	Y	Y
Garris, Charles	—	—	—	—
Gordek, Harper (15)	N	N	N	N
Heard, Shannon (19)	N	N	N	N
Hoffman, James (15)	N	N	Y	Y
Holland, Michael (6)	—	—	—	—
Jennings, Will (18)	N	N	N	N
Jolley, Jason (16)	N	N	Y	Y
Kennedy, Bryan (4)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kledis, Joe (12)	Y	—	Y	Y
Lindley, John (17)	N	N	A	A
Morrison, Brad (15)	N	N	Y	Y
Page, Ed (14)	Y	Y	—	Y
Poole-Kober, Evelyn (5)	N	N	Y	Y
Pritchard, John (20)	N	N	Y	Y
Roederer, Charlie (22)	N	Y	Y	Y
Rozier, Vince (14)	—	—	—	—
Sanders, Jennifer	—	—	—	—
Sasser, Kristen (10)	N	N	Y	Y
Scanga, Andrew (19)	—	—	—	—
Seney, Jim (2)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Speri, Bill (18)	Y	—	N	Y
Sweet, Mark (13)	Y	Y	N	N
Toulson, Charles (9)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Whalen, Dara (8)	Y	Y	N	N
White, Kameron (21)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Totals				
Yes	9	12	15	19
No	18	12	10	7
Abstained	1	0	2	2
Absent	5	9	6	6

Y = Voted yes N = Voted no A = Abstained from voting — = Absent

MEMORIAL

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Henderson Street. Williamson, who was found innocent by reason of insanity in his November 1995 murder trial, is currently undergoing treatment for schizophrenia at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh.

Nicholson said he hoped the service would reaffirm people's dedication to fighting senseless violence.

"The purpose of the service is to remember, because the only way to prevent something like this from happening again is to make people more informed," he said. "We want to remind people of what happened, so hopefully they will be more aware of danger and will act before it's too late."

The Reichardt family is also holding a commemorative event on Saturday in their home state of Maryland.

"The event will be a celebration of Kevin's life," his father said. "We're trying to do it in correlation with Kevin's Jan. 20th birthday and the day of the shooting."

The Kevin Reichardt's Scholar Athlete Champion scholarships will be announced for the first time this year at the celebration in Maryland, Reichardt said.

"The emphasis of the celebration is positive," he said.

Members of the UNC lacrosse team will be attending both the celebration in Maryland and the weekend memorial service. "This weekend makes you reflect on life, what you have and what others don't have," said Peter Murphy, one of Kevin's teammates. "(The shooting) is something most of us think about everyday."



Former UNC lacrosse player KEVIN REICHARDT will be honored at a memorial service Sunday on Henderson Street.

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THE Daily Crossword by Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

- Police command
- May honorees
- Arctic
- Japanese divine being
- Valhalla big shot
- Sidestep
- Building beam
- Dunce cap shape
- Like some panning
- Schneclady waterway
- Corp. pt.
- Hunt illegally
- Evaporate
- Allied conference site
- Black Sea feeder
- "Well, I'll be!"
- Diving birds
- In alignment
- Scatterbrain
- Frog-to-be
- Soft cheese
- Overweight
- Eur. land
- Get steamed
- "Odyssey" and "Iliad"
- Police barricade
- Pond scum
- Covert org.

DOWN

- Shortchange
- Forbidden
- City on the Missouri
- Blackbeard's forte
- Counterfeit
- Redolence
- Family vehicle
- 1983 Indy 500 champ
- IL town
- Eggs
- Saginaw Bay's milieu
- Mideast gulf
- Lacoste
- Cetacean
- Final
- Simple task
- Mauna
- Squabble
- Machete
- Fancy pitcher
- Chitchats
- Emerald Isle
- Former Albany-Buffalo link
- Gait
- Sandwich
- "was" saying...
- Coffee option
- Subservient to
- Imitation
- Ike
- Ski course
- From kegs
- Geography aid
- Caine comedy
- Redolent compound
- Tobacco wad
- Hawkeye's home
- Oaf
- Charity
- Morse code character

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