



Orange County Literacy Council

READ

503 West Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
www.orangeliteracy.org

FALL 2006

OCLC has a Shiny New Site in Cyberspace

Shannon Ravenel

Click on www.orangeliteracy.org and see for yourself.

Thanks to the vision of our 2005-06 Americorps members, Allison Garren and Kevin Tolson, and to the hundreds of hours donated by webmaster, Adam Lord, we have a beautiful new website that utilizes 21st century technology to offer a wealth of information—a portal worthy of our university town setting.

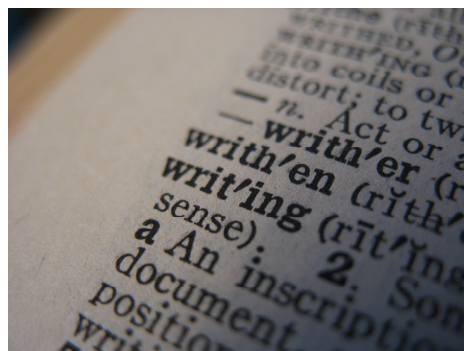
The new site offers many new features—all of them literally at your fingertips. Perhaps the most immediately striking is one that reaches out to the many Spanish-speaking people now in our community: all pages with information that prospective students need are presented in both English and Spanish.

Allison, Kevin, and Adam wanted particularly to draw the face of the Orange County Literacy Council as it reflects its place in the worldwide campaign for literacy. For information on that general effort, there's the "Literacy in a Global Context" page which leads you to the specifics—locally (us), regionally (Durham and Wake counties' literacy programs and the Triangle United Way which helps support all three county organizations), nationally (the National Institute for Literacy, National Assessment of Adult Literacy, and National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy), and globally (United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-2012 and The Education Atlas—the world's most comprehensive guide to education).

Seeing ourselves as we fit into the larger endeavor is important. Equally important is seeing the results of our own local work. The new website includes success stories of our clients who tell what it's like to leave the darkness of illiteracy to join the bright universe of reading. And there are links to compositions by reading students and participants in our homeless shelter writing programs. Think you know what goes on in a homeless man's mind? Read Community House guest Kenneth Redding's "March Eyes." It will change *your* mind.

I'm of an age that sometimes forgets that information about *everything* is available on the internet. Our sparkling new website is the perfect reminder of that. If there's anything you—or I—want to know about what we do, what we hope to do in the future, what we need to do that, where we are and who we are, it's right there for us at www.organgeliteracy.org. Visit!

P.S. If you're inspired to revamp or establish your *own* website, Adam Lord can be reached at *his* website: www.adamlord.com.



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New Faces at the OCLC

The Orange County Literacy Council is excited to welcome new staff this fall: Kelly Peak, Program Coordinator, and Kathleen Cook and Jenise Hudson, our AmeriCorps for the new fiscal year.

Kelly Peak will be dividing her time between offices, focusing on Adult Literacy Programs. A graduate of UNC, Kelly joined the OCLC in 2002 as a tutor, also helping design newsletters and informational material. Outside of the OCLC, Kelly is a freelance graphic designer and a design instructor at the Carrboro Arts Center.

Kathleen Cook is a recent graduate of Davidson College, where she majored in English. She will be focusing her energies on building a student/tutor community, as well as working on the January book drive, newsletter articles, and other special projects. In her free time, Kathleen enjoys running and spending time with her new puppy.

Jenise Hudson graduated from UNC this past summer and is now working towards her Masters Degree in English at NCCU. Until finishing her classes in December, Jenise will be working part-time. After that, Jenise will be working full-time in the Chapel Hill office, focusing on the Creative Writing Workshops, newsletter and website, and of course, the book drive.

Love of Reading Lives On: Ida Reed

A music librarian at UNC for thirteen years, Ida Reed loved to read. When she was unable to find space for her collection of almost 4,000 books, she built an addition onto her home with "bookcases that went from floor to ceiling" (*The News & Observer*). After battling cancer for over a decade, Ida Reed died October 9, 2005 at the age of 63. Her love of reading lives on through her generosity: Ida left the OCLC half the proceeds from the sale of the contents of her house, and her brother designated the OCLC as a beneficiary of memorial gifts. Her enormous gift, which allows the OCLC to continue in its ultimate goal of eliminating adult illiteracy in Orange County, is accepted with our humble thanks to Ida Reed and her family.

And you can quote me!

I have never thought of writing for reputation and honor. What I have in my heart must come out, that is the reason why I compose.

- Ludwig van Beethoven, German composer

When We Write Our Stories...

At the OCLC, our tutors and students recognize the power of writing. Not only is writing an excellent way to showcase a student's progress, it is also an evocative medium through which a student can tell his or her story. We have the pleasure to publish an excerpt of one student's original writing. Please visit the new website to read the remainder of this piece. Enjoy!

I am a Survivor

Anthony Brooks

I grew up in the church along with my brothers and sisters. I was always around someone preaching, reading scripture from the Bible, and bein' in church a good part of most Sundays. What we called "Livin' in the Word" meant trying, striving to live our lives as close to GOD as possible. My Dad and Mom were church-goin' people. I'm not sure if my Dad finished the third grade, or when my Mom dropped out of school, but I know my parents did not finish high school. We were poor and lived off the land. My Dad had and believed in a strong work ethic. On our farm in Caldwell, North Carolina, we all would be up by six o'clock in the morning doing our chores. I had to feed the pigs, pick vegetables and shuck corn. As I got older I had to also split wood. I would watch other kids up and down our road playin' or ridin' their bikes. We didn't have the money for bikes or the time to play. Because we lived off the land, we sold our pigs and vegetables to make money.

Creative Writing Workshops

Everyone has a story and the Creative Writing Workshops at IFC's Community House and Project Home start those living there an opportunity to share their stories. Every Tuesday evening, an OCLC volunteer leads a creative writing exercise to give participants a chance to express themselves. Once a month, a special guest artist or writer shares his or her work and leads a workshop with the shelter clients.

Below are poems written during a Creative Writing Workshop, one based on Elizabeth Bishop's poem "One Art." See an article about our most recent quest artist, principal of Hunter Middle School in Chatham County and rap artist, SPECTAC, on page 6.

The Art of Losing

Abdul Rahim

*I dedicate this one to Willy and all the ones who like
nourishment of the soul.*

The art of losing is deep.
That's why often I get little sleep.

The art of losing, to me, is to know that you once had.
Life goes on so it can't be all that bad.

We lose loved ones by death. We lose loved ones that
choose to walk out of our life.
After all of this losing, some people grow to become
trife.

Money, relationships, cars, homes all have been lost.
I know I can gain that again and this time my soul
won't be the cost.

One art, one God, losing is not a disaster.
The true disaster is losing faith of the Master.

All My Life I Thought People Hated Me

Ruben Faison

All my life I thought people hated me, and it
was their fault why life evaded me
But it was me all along doing myself wrong
Never finding where I belong
I just couldn't stay away from those shady
places
With all those empty faces
I was out of control in a valley so long
And I just couldn't escape it.
It wasn't easy living with low self-esteem
But I soon found out it's not
About the American Dream
But the " " is me!

The Extra Mile: Mike and Sara

Kathleen Cook

When matching a student and tutor, the OCLC works hard to match people who will work well together. Each quarter we will profile a student-tutor pair to give others a glimpse into the hard work and rewards of tutoring with the OCLC.

In a soft southern drawl, Mike humbly admits that he has made excellent progress during his two and a half years with the Orange County Literacy Council. Mike is working towards his GED and has already passed the Science test, one of five subject tests that comprise the General Educational Development degree. Passing all five tests takes most OCLC students years of work, but Mike's alacrity has not waned. His tutor, Sara, credits Mike with being "enthusiastic and really dedicated to his goal of earning his GED." Mike's dedication, Sara's generosity, and their friendship that has developed through tutoring, make Mike and Sara a great example of a successful Orange County Literacy Council student and tutor pair.

In addition to making huge strides in his reading comprehension and spelling, Mike says that one of the best parts of working with the OCLC has been "getting to meet good people that go the extra mile to help." Sara echoes his sentiment about making a good friend during tutoring, saying, "Mike is a great person and I'm really glad that I have gotten to know him well since we've been working together." Sara began tutoring with the OCLC nine months ago because she considers literacy "fundamental to success in our society and...a great way to help people get ahead and achieve their goals."

While Mike's long-term goal is to get his GED, he says that tutoring has improved his daily life as well, helping with reading and math, and "with reading blueprints" for his job. These improvements did not come without perseverance and hard work, but Mike says the most arduous part of tutoring was "getting started. It was hard to come the first day." Thankfully Mike did attend tutoring that first day and has since made significant progress.

Mike is not the only person who benefits from tutoring sessions. Sara speaks highly of Mike and her experience as a tutor, saying that Mike's dedication "makes me feel very grateful that I decided to become a tutor." She hopes to pass along her sense of civic duty and the rewards of tutoring a student like Mike to her daughter. Sara explains, "I think [tutoring sets] a good example for my daughter, who is eleven. She comes with me when I tutor Mike because I want her to learn that there is a lot she can and should do to help people."

Know of a student/tutor pair that deserves recognition? Would you like to highlight your student's hard work? Please let us know so we can share that story in the next newsletter!

Call or write Kathleen Cook at (919) 732-0868 or kcook@orangeliteracy.org.

And you can quote me!

Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity.

- Hermann Hesse, winner of the 1946 Noble Prize for Literature and author of *Steppenwolf* and *Siddhartha*

Welcome New Tutors

The OCLC is pleased to announce that the following volunteers successfully completed Tutor Training. Welcome to our new community of learners!

April

- Richard Bradford
- Janet Bratter
- Maria Crawford
- Sydney Elstran
- Judith Fox
- Jessica Gray
- Theresa Grywalshi
- Renee Howle
- Phyllis Kessler
- Sarah McConnaghy
- Jane Paulsen
- Maria Piskor
- Dave Rosen
- Celia Sandford
- Elizabeth Sholly
- Anne Stewart
- Chelia Thompson

October

- Ana Burrows
- Kathleen Cook
- Vickie Craig
- Dona Fountoukidis
- Carol George
- Christine Glass
- Rebecca Gunn
- Jenise Hudson
- Anna Kellogg
- Karen Lauterbach
- Sarah Mason
- Melanie Stimeling
- Nancy Tyler

TUTOR TIPS

Do you have a tutor tip to share? Let us know.
E-mail us at oclc@orangeliteracy.org, subject: TUTOR TIP
or call (919) 933-2151.

GOAL SETTING STRATEGIES

The way in which you set goals is critical to success. The following broad guidelines will help you set effective goals:

- **POSITIVE STATEMENT:** Express your goals positively.
- **BE PRECISE:** By setting an exact goal and a date by which to achieve it, a timeline can be made and successes can be tracked more easily.
- **SET PRIORITIES:** If your student has several goals, list them in order of priority to avoid feeling overwhelmed and to focus attention on the most important goals first.
- **RECORD IT:** Write goals down to avoid confusion and give them more force.
- **KEEP OPERATIONAL GOALS SMALL:** Make your student's most immediate goals small and achievable.
- **SET PERFORMANCE, NOT OUTCOME GOALS:** Set realistic goals so that you and your student can measure progress and achieve more goals through tutoring. Setting goals that are too broad or too high will only frustrate you and your student.
- **SETTING GOALS TOO LOW:** Make goals realistic, but not too easy. Your student will progress further and gain a sense of accomplishment by working towards realistic but challenging goals.
- Remember this pneumonic device to make **SMART** goals:

- S** = specific
- M** = measurable
- A** = attainable
- R** = realistic
- T** = timely



Want to write for our newsletter?

We love to include student and volunteer stories.
 Contact the OCLC staff at (919) 933-2151 or

Reaching Out: New Cedar Grove Tutoring Site

Kathleen Cook

According to the 2000 census report, 12.4 % (8,615) of all Orange County adults 25 years old and older did not complete high school. To better serve the extensive literacy needs of this community, the OCLC is establishing an outreach site at the Cedar Grove Branch Library, located approximately ten miles north of Hillsborough.

With the assistance of Isabel Jackson, Director of the Cedar Grove Branch Library, Kathy Alberter arranged for tutors and students to meet on Mondays and Thursdays in one of the building's classrooms. Because current students are interested in earning their G.E.D.s, Alberter was able to tailor Thursday nights to include a short classroom-style lesson about general G.E.D. topics before the students and tutors separate to work independently on specific needs.

In establishing routine hours on Mondays and Thursdays, Alberter hopes to make it easier for more students to find out about the opportunity. The goal is to structure a program that will serve 6-10 students at a time and can be run somewhat independently by a core group of tutors in a permanent space in the building.

Kathy Alberter, along with Kathleen Cook, will be holding student intakes at the Cedar Grove site once a month. Ask your students if they know of anyone who may want to join us in Cedar Grove!

New Student Registration

The OCLC will have registration periods for new students once a month for all three sites. The following dates are:

Chapel Hill at the Skills Development Center:

November 30

Hillsborough at the First Baptist Church:

November 30

Rapper Kicks Off Visiting Artist Series

Jenise Hudson

Following the adage that "everyone has a story to tell," rapper/ educator Mervin Jenkins, a.k.a. SPECTAC, kicked off the OCLC's Visiting Artists Series with his own story, one filled with both struggle and success. Jenkins, who by day is principal of Horton Middle School in Chatham County, shared his socially conscious work with a packed audience made up of men from the IFC shelter, OCLC staff and board members, and the general public.

A artist rap who has worked with the famous native North Carolinian producer, 9th Wonder, and has had one of his own songs crack the billboard top 100, Jenkins expressed his belief that all successes come from staying focused the positive. He said it was not until he got his life on track that he was able to have his own success and form relationships with well-known celebrities like Chris Rock.

After performing, Jenkins led the audience in a creative writing exercise designed to allow artistic expression, asking each person to write a paragraph about his or her favorite song and explain why the song was special to them.

Jenkins's appearance in October was the first in a series of Visiting Artist workshops scheduled to take place over the next year. The Visiting Artist Series is made possible thanks to a grant from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. Picture courtesy of Jenkin's website, www.lifethroughmusic.com.



Friends of Literacy (to date) in 2006

The Orange County Literacy Council would like to thank the following for their very generous support.

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Holiday Gift Wrapping

'Tis the season! During the holiday season, the OCLC volunteers gift wrap purchases at the Borders of Chapel Hill and both local Barnes & Nobles and collect donations. Not only does the OCLC raise funds for the coming year, we also get to introduce ourselves to the greater Triangle community!

Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts on the following dates:

- **November 25**, Borders of Chapel Hill from 12 pm until 8 pm
- **December 18**, Barnes & Noble of New Hope Commons from 9 am until 11 pm
- **December 20**, Barnes & Noble of Southpoint from 9 am until 11 pm

Please contact Kathleen Cook at (919) 732-0868 or kcook@orangeliteracy.org to sign up!

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