



READ

503 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Spring 2002

OCLC Annual Appreciation Banquet

By Luli Gray

For me, the Orange County Literacy Council's Annual Appreciation Banquet always heralds the beginning of Christmas. It is an intensely personal event. Students and tutors talk about helping each other, quietly, persistently, faithfully over months and even years. Again and again their stories show that teaching and encouraging literacy is not a one-way street of tutor helping student, but a shared experience among people who all have something valuable to give. Those caring commitments make the banquet an antidote to the commercialization of the holiday.

Through the generous support of Thomas King, General Manager of the Chapel Hill Holiday Inn and OCLC Honorary Advisory Board member, the event took place in the Inn's bright, airy banquet room, decorated for the season. Polly Moreau

opened the evening with the sad announcement that Lucy Lewis, Council Director, would be unable to attend because of the death of her father the previous day. Susan Attermeier (founder of the OCLC) and Kathy Alberter (Northern Orange Program Coordinator) presided instead and did a wonderful job.

This year's banquet seemed to have a deeper meaning than usual. Was it the horrors of September 11 that made me value this gathering more? I don't know, but it was both moving and heartening to see all those good people: friends, acquaintances, strangers; sharing food, listening, talking, laughing, even weeping a bit. (I have to admit, I always cry at the Appreciation Banquet; I can't help it.)

After a tasty chicken dinner, several tutors introduced their students. Chris Toenes' student Will Hardman talked about his improved math skills, and spoke inspiringly of his

increased confidence. He and Chris adapted the lessons to accommodate his dyslexia, and Will pointed out that Albert Einstein and Woodrow Wilson were dyslexic too. "Having a disability doesn't have to get in the way of your dreams," he said, and told us about his project, "Access World," that will employ disabled people in computer Web design. He emphasized that diligence is the key to success and advised, "Accept help but rely on yourself!"



OCLC students receiving recognition
Photo by Velverton Land

Kathy and Linda Browner, Southern Orange Program Coordinator, presented awards to students Benny Albright, Mary Alston, Michael Damm, Will Hardman, Ann Hester, Matti Salonin, Russell Williams, and Maria Flores, who is the first OCLC student to learn to read and write English as a second language.

All their stories attest to the mutual affection and respect between tutors and their students. Kathy

Alberter spoke of the power to learn and accomplish, and mentioned the OCLC bumpersticker, "It's Never Too Late to Learn."

Tutor awards followed, presented to Gabriel and Mary DesHarnais, Bob Magan, Evelyn Soto, and Doug Stuber. A special award went to our beloved Barbara Kuligowski, former Board President and Tutor Training Team Coordinator, who has volunteered in numerous OCLC programs over the last decade. I worked on a writing program with Barbara at the Orange County Correctional Center, and will never forget the enthusiasm and originality she brought to those classes.

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Annual Appreciation Banquet (continued)

Patricia Gee, the incoming President, saluted the Board and Honorary Advisory Board. Kathy Alberter concluded the evening with thanks to the



Photo by Bob Henshaw

Kathy Alberter, Board members Barbara Kuligowski, Polly Moreau, Sarah Cooley, and OCLC founder Susan Attermeier holding Grace Cooley

staff and volunteers who use their creativity to keep the work fresh and exciting.

Handshakes, hugs all around, and I stepped out into a warm December night, full of chicken, hope for the future, and the words of an old gospel song running through my head:

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." That's why I never miss this banquet. It reminds me that while there may

not be peace on earth, there is, in the OCLC at least, goodwill toward men. Let it shine!

-Luli Gray is a member of the Family Reading Team

Community Computer-based Literacy Staff

We are delighted to welcome Doug Stuber as a part-time staffperson to the Literacy Council. Doug is a former teacher at the Village Charter School, and an OCLC tutor. His position is funded through June by the Town of Chapel Hill's Community Development Block Grant. He is focusing on coordinating computer-based GED classes in public housing and community centers. He is currently offering classes at:

- Hargraves Community Center Monday 1-2:30 p.m.
- Trinity Court/Pritchard Park, Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - noon
- South Estes Community Center Tuesday 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Wednesday 10:30 a.m.- noon

Doug is looking for interested volunteers to assist with the daytime classes. He is also available to meet with Chapel Hill tutors to discuss how they can use computers with their students and to demonstrate our different adult literacy and GED software programs. **Call Doug Stuber at 933-2151 to volunteer or to make an appointment.**

Learn about Learning Disabilities

WUNC-TV will be airing **Misunderstood Minds**, a program about learning disabilities, on Wednesday, March 27 from 9-10:30 p.m. **Check it out!**

WISH LIST

- Good condition office chairs
- Pens & pencils
- Dry-erase markers
- Reams of paper
- Paperback dictionaries

READ

Aunt – Ain't – Ant*By Allen McJunkin*

Before I make this resolution, I want to explain in simple terms just why I'm making it.

When I was small and learning to talk, I was told that my dad's sister was named Mary. Now as we all know, your parents' siblings are known as Aunts and Uncles. So, and here's the hard part – I already understood before I met Mary that "ain't", according to my dad's philosophy meant "wrong". I learned this by observation only, my dad was always stepping around the house saying things like, "This ain't right", or "You ain't supposed to be doing that," or to my mom he might say, "We ain't going out to eat woman, you gonna cook." So I just plain knew what the word meant.

Even as a small child it wasn't easy changing my mind once I had it made up. So when my dad told me Mary's name, I was fine with that. But then my mom told me "Aunt Mary" and I began to wonder just who the hell was right. Instead of arguing with mom and dad which always proved to be painful, I just ignored the lady when she came over because I didn't know who she was or wasn't. Aint Mary, Mary, Ain't Mary, Mary. I was scarred for life. I won't even try to recall my mental stability after my older sister explained about the little insects crawling around on the big mound of dirt.

So my New Year's Resolution is to find out who is in charge of distributing these words to the American public and have that particular word examined closely, maybe even have it discarded from the English language before it scars some other innocent child. After all, children are our future.

My Fifth Birthday*By Abraham Williams**as told to Mary DesHarnais*

The first birthday I really remember was when I turned five years old. My father gave me a big red wooden wagon. He tied a billy goat to it with two ropes, making a kind of harness. That was fine.

But then I decided to try it by myself. I hooked up the ropes from the wagon to the goat. I thought I was doing just like my father did. I said "Giddap!" just like he did. But the goat took off, and instead of going in a nice little circle like he did when my father was there, he really took off. He leaped right over a barbed wire fence into a field where the cows and pigs were. But the wagon didn't go over. It flipped over before it cleared the fence. The wagon was tore to pieces.



Of course, my father fixed the wagon, but he kept it away from me until I learned how to control the goat.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sandra Merrit recently passed both the written and driving test for her driver's license, and completed the pre-GED Social Studies workbook.

Share Your Writings and Successes

Each edition of READ has a page for adult learners. Thanks to these adult learners for sharing their writings and accomplishments. Ask *your* student if they would like to see their writing in print or have a recent achievement recognized.

TIPS FOR TUTORS

15 Activities to Reinforce Spelling

1) Create new words by adding *ing* and *ed*, such as:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <u>ing</u> | <u>ed</u> |
| help | walk |
| play | hunt |

2) Change the initial letter to form new words:

run fun gun sun

3) Find words that rhyme:

walk/talk bat/cat small/tall

4) Fill in a missing word:

Mother was _____ a cake.
(bake, baking)

5) Find words that are opposite:

run/stop up/down high/low

6) Group words according to a classification:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Animals</i> | <i>People</i> | <i>Fruit</i> |
| cow | father | apple |

7) Make a new word by putting a letter in front of small words:

f- ill b- at s- hop

8) List words that mean more than one:

bill (bills) book (books) game (games)

9) Put two words together to make a compound word:

my – self (myself) some – thing
(something) day – time (daytime)

10) Find words that go with a definition:

Milk – something we drink.

11) Make up riddles:

“I am round. You can bounce me. What am I?”

12) Think up words that mean almost the same thing:

hot (warm) cap (hat) car
(automobile)

13) Fill in the missing letter(s) in spelling words:

b_x run
ho_ _ box
_un home

14) Work on learning homonyms:

One-won waist-waste roll-role by-buy

15) Learn the 20 most misspelled words. Use plastic letters, a tape recorder, paper or board, write it in the air, use it in a sentence. **Overwork** these words!

| | | |
|---------|------------|----------|
| across | possible | almost |
| quite | believe | receive |
| brought | should | business |
| supply | dollar | suppose |
| don't | their | friend |
| through | government | whether |
| laugh | your | |

April 10 Tutor Inservice Workshop

Social worker Peggy Conway will facilitate a discussion on **“INTERPERSONAL ISSUES AND HEALTHY COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR STUDENT”**. She will



address real-life issues faced by tutors, such as: how to be empathetic about your student’s life without becoming overly involved outside the tutoring relationship, how to handle uncomfortable questions or requests and remain focused, as well as other issues such as dependency, setting boundaries, and techniques for improving communication skills.

Join us at **7 – 9 p.m. at the Skills Development Center, 503 W. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, Room 105.**

Welcome New Tutors

The following tutors completed the February Tutor Training Workshop. Welcome to our community of learners!

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Patricia Brooks | Betsy Mann |
| Leigh Ann Couch | Jennifer Mario |
| Jim Dean | Mary Lou Melville |
| Howard Fried | Carolyn Nista |
| Pete Gaskell | Kelly Peak |
| Debra Gerhardt | Mary Pettis |
| Pam Gibbard | Beverly Sanders |
| Fritz Gugelmann | Peggy Schneider |
| Richard Gugelmann | Jennifer Smith |
| Trish Hoover | Barbara Tepperman |
| Stacie Knasiak | Susan Wiley |
| Dazzie Lane | |

READ**Community Relations Announcement**

The Community Relations Committee is seeking volunteers to staff a shift at an OCLC table at a variety of upcoming community events:

- NC Literary Festival (UNC campus) – Saturday, April 6
- Apple Chill (Franklin St., Chapel Hill) – Sunday, April 21
- Community Day (Weaver St. Market, Carrboro) – Saturday, April 27
- Hog Day (Hillsborough) – Saturday, June 15

This is a wonderful way to increase community awareness about adult literacy - and have a great time doing so! For more information, contact 933-2151.

Thank You

- Thomas King, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Chapel Hill, for supporting OCLC's Annual Banquet.
- Thank you to Goodwill 4H Club and CGS Extension Homemakers for serving at the Banquet – Hattie Van Hook, Brenda Van Hook, Michael Barber, Kenneth Florence, April Fuller, Khalia Jones, Jonathan Van Hook, Joshua Van Hook.
- Borders Bookstore for providing holiday fundraiser giftwrapping opportunities and the 25 tutors and adult learners who participated.
- Barnes and Noble for providing a holiday fundraiser giftwrapping opportunity and the 12 tutors and adult learners whom participated.
- Joanne Cotter, OCLC's new Wednesday Southern Orange office volunteer.

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF OCLC

The Literacy Council depends on the Friends of the OCLC for critical financial support. Many thanks to those who made holiday gifts to OCLC, and to our new and continuing Friends for their generous response to our Annual Appeal:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
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I would like to become a friend of the OCLC.
Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:
\$1,000 purchases GED prep software
\$500 purchases phonics literacy software
\$100 subsidizes a tutor training workshop
\$ 50 purchases PhonoGraphix workbooks
\$ 25 provides an adult learner with workbooks
Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
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503 W. Franklin St.
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Please do not mention my name in newsletter

Thank you for supporting adult literacy!

Volunteers needed for OCLC benefit Author Reading and Silent Auction on **Sunday, October 13 2-4:30 pm at the Carrboro Century Center.** Help with publicity, contacting businesses, etc. - call 933-2151 for more



Tutors - Adult Learners - Friends of Literacy
Join THE GREAT HUMAN RACE
Sunday, March 23, 9am, Durham Bulls Athletic Park
WALKERS, RUNNERS, AND SPONSOR NEEDED!

The Orange County Literacy Council is joining other area non-profits in this major fundraiser which includes a 5K road race and a 5k fun run/walk/wheel chair roll. Prizes, T-shirts, entertainment, and refreshments are part of the festivities. So get out your running shoes and join our team! You can help the Literacy Council reach our **\$3,000 goal for adult literacy and GED workbooks** by getting family, friends, and neighbors to sponsor you with a tax-deductible contribution to the Great Human Race. *To receive additional information, register, or make a pledge for a member of the OCLC team, call the Literacy Council at 933-2151 today!*

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