



Orange County Literacy Council

# READ

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

SPRING 2007

## The Beautiful Thing About Learning is that no one can take it away from you. ~ B.B. King

### Annual Student-Tutor Banquet Honors Hard Work of OCLC Volunteers and Students

OCLC students, tutors, and volunteers work diligently all year. To celebrate this work and the resulting achievements, the OCLC hosts an Annual Student-Tutor Appreciation Banquet. Tutor Kelly Sharpe describes the banquet as having a “sense of community and feeling of pride that just seems to echo throughout the night.” Held on December 5, 2006, this year’s banquet was well-attended and proved an enjoyable—and sometimes emotional—even evening for all.

Volunteer Rebecca Gunn, along with OCLC staff, decorated the Big Barn Convention Center (Daniel Boone Village) with lights and festive greenery donated by Gunn and Whole Foods. Tables lined up along the side wall were soon covered with a selection of delectable dishes brought by volunteers and students.

After dinner, several students read personal writings, impressive examples of their dedication and perseverance. The readings included an emotional account of one student’s amazement that a tutor would be so dedicated to helping her at no cost. Student Anthony Brooks read a sermon he had written. “I think that having a Banquet is a good idea,” student Mary Baine said, “You find



Student Law La Moo reads one of his writings. His tutor, Maria Piskor, later gave him an award to honor his dedication to learning English.



Student Anthony Brooks gives his tutor Kelly Sharpe a big hug after receiving an award recognizing his much improved writing skills and progress towards getting his GED. Anthony was also one of several students to share his writing.

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out what other students are learning and how they are progressing. It makes me want to learn a lot of things, too.”

Following the readings, awards were presented, honoring the hard work and progress of students and tutors. Three tutors—Gabriel and Mary DesHarnais, and Ludie White—were recognized for their work at the Orange Correctional Center. Tutors Mary Alexion and Deb Baldwin were honored for their longtime work with the OCLC. One student commented, “It is nice to get together with people who understand each other.”



Guests applaud as tutors and students received awards describing their efforts during 2006.



The illustrious Brenda Van Hook and her team of Goodwill #3 4H Club and CGS Extension Homemakers Club members helped prepare and clean up. Their help was invaluable!

Tutor Francis Coyle also had a good time, saying, “[T]his was my first Tutor-Student Banquet; I was more than delighted with the congeniality and diversity of the folks at the event.” Each student received a gift to further their progress: *The Best Dictionary for Students*, donated by Schley Grange.

It was an evening of good food, good friends, and remarkable successes. We

thank all the organizations for their generous donations and continued support of the Orange County Literacy Council’s mission to eradicate illiteracy in Orange County.

**OCLC Increases ESOL Opportunities**

The OCLC is increasing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) opportunities by offering classes at the Siena Hotel in Chapel Hill and Grady Brown Elementary School in Hillsborough. Kim Batcheller, an OCLC supporter and former tutor had worked independently with Siena staff for several years, when he invited OCLC staff member Kelly Davis to provide instructional support for the class. Since then, the OCLC has worked with fifteen new ESOL students at the hotel. We have also been providing ESOL classes at Grady Brown for students’ parents. The classes focus on the four communication skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking to build literacy skills alongside meaningful communication. For more information on our growing number of ESOL tutoring opportunities, contact Kelly Davis at kdavis@orangeliteracy.org.

*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 students' progress, it is also the best way students can share their own stories. It is our pleasure to publish pieces by students David Hernandez and Michael Rae Anderson. Visit our website to read more student writings.*

**Why I Wanted to Learn English**

*David Hernandez*

English is one of the languages that I always wanted to learn. I wanted to learn so that I can communicate with others, find a better job, and be helpful to the community.

When I was in Mexico, my dream was to come to America to see other ways of living, live a better life than Mexico, and to learn Americans' culture. In order to know all these things, I had to learn English which now I enjoy talking with other people.

It's very important to learn English because it helps you to find a better job. Finding a job was difficult but as the years passed, I have been developing my skills and I can see a lot of progress. I went from being a laborer to material handler, then a technician, and finally, a manager. I achieved all of these jobs by learning English.

Helping is something I want to do. I want to help people to get a job, and let them see a better way of life. At one time, I couldn't help anyone because I couldn't speak English. Now that I have learned it, it really makes things easier. This is why I wanted to learn, to make a difference in my life and others' as well.

Learning the language was very difficult for me because English is not my first language. But it has helped me to step to the next level, and I am going to apply it to the best of my abilities for a good cause.

**It All Makes SENSE!**  
*Michael Rae Anderson*

Excellence or an Excelled Sense  
Innocence or an Inner Sense  
Experience or an Expert Sense  
- It all makes Sense -

Wishful thinking or wishes filled with  
Thinking  
Landmines or This Land is mine  
Americans or A mere "I can"  
- It all makes Sense -

Learned Lessons or A Lesser Sense  
Magnificence or a Magnified sense  
Ever since or Every Sense  
It all makes Sense!

**Sweet Morning Rain**  
*Michael Rae Anderson*

Sweet Morning Rain  
washes away the pain  
Expressions of sadness fade  
Dancing Raindrops Mingle  
As the sound  
of nature's music  
is being played  
Sweet Morning Rain  
Feel Free to Come Again!

## Welcome New Tutors

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

Christine Bell  
 Vicki Blatt  
 Caroline Jennett  
 Beth Friedman  
 Karen Isaacs  
 Erin Kauffman  
 Sara Needles  
 Tom Nuzum  
 Nancy Tannenbaum  
 Lauren Teegarden  
 Sarah Trippensee  
 Mary Wrighton

### Upcoming Tutor Events

To celebrate *National Volunteer Week* (April 15-22), the OCLC will host an **Ice Cream Social**, Tuesday, April 17 from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

### **Tutor Training**

**April 12:** Interest Meetings

**May 3:** 1<sup>st</sup> Training Session

**May 19:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Session

Contact Kelly Davis or Kathy Alberter for information!

Kelly Davis, Chapel Hill  
 kdavis@orangeliteracy.org  
 (919) 933-2151

Kathy Alberter, Hillsborough  
 kalberter@orangeliteracy.org  
 (919) 732-0868

## TUTOR TIPS

### Visualizing to Reinforce Learning

Students with learning difficulties often require alternative methods to comprehend what they have read. Visualization activities allow the student to put ideas about and reactions to an article or story on paper, thereby reinforcing and expanding his or her understanding of the reading. You can also use recordings of readings or sounds, then ask your student to visualize what he has heard. Use the following tools to do a visualization activity:

#### Two-Column Written Response:

- Quote or Picture from Text/My Mental Image
- What the Text Is About/What I See
- Words on the Page/Picture in My Mind
- Words on the Page/My Mental Map of What Happened

#### Three-Column Written Response:

- Words on the Page/Picture in My Mind/My Personal Response

#### Other Responses:

- Listening to a recording of sounds that stimulate certain images—slapping ocean waves and chirping sea gulls or honking horns and noisy cars on city streets—and then fixing the images in the mind to recall the concept at a later time
- Drawing what is visualized after hearing a tape as described above
- Drawing what is visualized when reading
- Listening to music and describing what is visualized
- Drawing a movie in the reader's mind—a sequence of drawings that convey the mental images the reader creates from text
- "Sketch to stretch." The student folds a piece of paper into four parts. As the tutor reads aloud, the student draws the "movie" on the paper, a different frame in each quadrant.



### Want to write for our newsletter?

We love to include student and volunteer stories. Contact the OCLC staff at (919) 933-2151 or [oclc@orangeliteracy.org](mailto:oclc@orangeliteracy.org).

**Second Annual MLK Day Book Drive a Huge Success**

With more than 4,200 donated books, the Literacy Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community READS book drive bested last year's by roughly 1,000 books! Orange County Literacy Council volunteer Anne Dellinger worked closely with AmeriCorps members Jenise Hudson and Kathleen Cook to



Former Senator John Edwards and wife Elizabeth help sort through donated books. Photo by Laura Shmania © Carolina Friends School

organize the drive, building on efforts by last year's AmeriCorps, Allison Garren and Kevin Tolson.

OCLC staff, volunteers, and members of the community – including former Senator John Edwards, his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter Cate – pitched in to

sort a mountain of books at the Carolina Friends School on MLK Day, January 15, 2007. The school donated space in the middle school for the hefty task of counting, sorting, and boxing the books.

Working steadily, the group used every square inch of the large Friends School room to organize nearly 100 boxes of books. The piles of books, which ranged from children and young adult fiction to adult fiction and non-fiction, were the culmination of a two-month effort by the OCLC and several key volunteers to collect and redistribute books to marginalized persons living throughout Orange County.



Volunteers hard at work. Photo by Laura Shmania © Carolina Friends School

The many stacks of books failed to intimidate the diligent Friends School and community volunteers and OCLC staff who worked from 10:00 a.m. until mid-afternoon, labeling and loading the boxes. For some, the urge to donate time was rooted in a commitment to helping disadvantaged children and adults, while others volunteered to honor the memory of Dr. King and his commitment to personal progress through

knowledge.

Books for the annual book drive were collected in Orange County recycling bins loaned for the drive by Orange County Solid Waste Management Department from twenty donation sites in Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Durham. Borders at New Hope Commons generously volunteered to collect books for the entire month of January. Books have been distributed to area agencies including the Inter-Faith Council men's and women's shelters and Orange Congregations in Mission. The OCLC greatly appreciates all the volunteers and organizations that helped make this project such a huge success, especially Anne Dellinger, Ginger Young, Carolina Friends School, and Village Storage of Carrboro.



Friends School students also pitched in, making the book drive move very quickly. Photo by Laura Shmania © Carolina Friends School

Borders at New Hope Commons generously volunteered to collect books for the entire month of January. Books have been distributed to area agencies including the Inter-Faith Council men's and women's shelters and Orange Congregations in Mission. The OCLC greatly appreciates all the volunteers and organizations that helped make this project such a huge success, especially Anne Dellinger, Ginger Young, Carolina Friends School, and Village Storage of Carrboro.

- The Orange County Literacy Council would like to thank the following businesses and organizations:**
- Barnes & Noble at New Hope Commons
  - Barnes & Noble at Southpoint
  - Borders Books
  - Caribou Coffee
  - Carolina Friends School
  - Carrburritos
  - Cup A Joe—Hillsborough
  - Inter-Faith Council
  - Mama Dip's Restaurant
  - Market Street Books
  - Orange Congregations in Mission
  - Orange County Solid Waste Management Dept.
  - Senior Center—Chapel Hill and Hillsborough
  - St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
  - Townsend & Bertram
  - Triangle United Way
  - Tupelo's Restaurant
  - UNC Undergraduate Library
  - UPS Store at Meadowmont
  - Village Storage of Carrboro
  - Wellness Center at Meadowmont
  - Whole Foods

**Exciting Visiting Artists Ring in the New Year**

The Visiting Artist Series, held monthly at the men’s homelessness shelter in Chapel Hill, has continued to host a number of local celebrities, from News & Observer columnist Barry Saunders to scholar and author Tim Tyson. The artists tell their own stories of how reading and writing have steered their lives, and their innovative presentations inspire audiences to experiment with the power of written words.

November’s speakers were the Winston-Salem Slam Poets, featuring poet and playwright **Nell Britton**. First place winner of the Turner South Television “This is My South” Contest and several poetry awards, Britton stressed the importance of poetry as an expression of unity during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960’s. Her poem “The Greensboro Four” reminded the audience of the African American struggle for social and political equality. Britton encouraged participants to write two-minute poems and present them as they would for a slam poetry competition.

Controversial and provocative columnist **Barry Saunders** led the series’ special workshop in December. Several times voted as Columnist of the Year by the North Carolina Press Association, Saun-



Barry Saunders

ders showed his classic irreverence by telling the audience a humorous Christmas story about the first time he learned there was no Santa Claus, a discovery he jokingly claimed was so upsetting that he almost dropped out of college.

January’s series brought two artists in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award-winning author, **Tim Tyson**, rang in the New Year by reading from his book, *Blood Done Sign My Name*, and asking the audience to write about a life-changing moment. Poet, playwright, and publisher **Kim Arrington** rounded out the MLK celebration on January 23. The Durham native read from her acclaimed first volume of poetry, *the lapis dwellers*.

Emphasizing that poetry can arise from any thought or idea that is presented in a creative way, Arrington taught the audience to experiment with language and create poems based on descriptions of their favorite food, clothing, and proverb.

More literary talents are coming to the IFC Community House during 2007. Please visit our website, [www.orangeliteracy.org](http://www.orangeliteracy.org), to view descriptions and dates for upcoming artists!



Kim Arrington

*Visiting Artists Series, a part of the ongoing Creative Writing Program at IFC’s Community House, is funded by a donation from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. The Series was developed and the line-up of artists coordinated by Deb Baldwin, a longtime volunteer with the OCLC’s Creative Writing Program.*

**Family History Day in Cedar Grove a Success, Sign of Continued Outreach**

In a continuing effort to branch out into unincorporated Orange County, the OCLC hosted a Family History Day at Cedar Grove Branch Library to help families with limited literacy skills research their genealogies. Special guest genealogist Nat Clark spoke to participants about conducting genealogical research. Mr. Clark proved fascinating, his main message being that one must find a paper document



Genealogist Nat Clark speaks to Family History Day participants.

to corroborate any ancestral lineage. He showed attendees copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates in addition to other court and church papers. He also shared exciting stories about searching for his own family tree.

In addition, special guest and former OCLC student Anne Hester spoke about her ongoing research on her late brother-in-law James “Big Jim” Parker. Big Jim was an National Football League Hall of Fame linesman who played professional football for the Baltimore Colts in the 1950’s. He was the first black athlete to receive the Outland Trophy in his senior year at Ohio State. The session empowered participants to begin their personal genealogical research.



Family History Day participants and volunteers.

Program Coordinator Kathy Alberter and OCLC volunteers Chelia Thompson, Brittany Thompson, and Linda Schmidt assisted attendees in taking notes and beginning their research. Family History Day proved a successful special event in the continued effort to promote literacy in Cedar Grove.

**Friends of Literacy to date in 2007**

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

**Individuals**

Anne Adams  
 Susan Attermeier  
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 Anne Scaff

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 Inter-Faith Council  
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 Senior Center—Chapel Hill, Hillsborough  
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
 The Big Barn Convention Center at Daniel  
 Boone Village  
 The Siena Hotel  
 Townsend & Bertram  
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 UNC Undergraduate Library  
 UPS Store at Meadowmont  
 Village Self Storage of Carrboro  
 Wellness Center at Meadowmont  
 Whole Foods

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Become a Friend of Literacy. Your tax-deductible contribution will help to:

- Support expanded staff hours
- Subsidize a Tutor Training Workshop
- Purchase workbooks for adult learners

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$ 1000       \$ 500       \$ 250
- \$ 100       \$ 50       \$ 25
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to:*

**Orange County Literacy Council**  
503 W. Franklin St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

- I prefer to make an anonymous contribution.
- My donation is In Honor of/In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for supporting adult literacy!**

**Tutors, please tell your students about these FREE upcoming classes in Cedar Grove.**

**Driver's License Test**

Get help studying for the Driver's License written/oral test.

Four-week class beginning April 16 to May 7 from 5-7 pm

**Housing Applications**

Get help preparing for and filling out housing/apartment applications.

Sat., April 21 from 10-12 pm *or* 12-2 pm

For more information, contact Kathy Alberter at [kalberter@orangeliteracy.org](mailto:kalberter@orangeliteracy.org) or (919) 732-0868

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