



# ORANGE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL READ

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

S P R I N G 2 0 0 3

## Council Celebrates Achievements

The Literacy Council's annual Appreciation Banquet was held December 3 at the Holiday Inn Chapel Hill. Due to the generous support of Thomas King, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Chapel Hill and OCLC Honorary Advisory Board member, the event once again took place in the Inn's banquet room, sparkling for the holidays. Board Vice-President Rita Weimer presided over the evening, themed One Step at a Time, which is always the high point of the Council's year. She graciously welcomed students, tutors, volunteers, Board, Honorary Board and staff members and their families.

This year the Holiday Inn provided the delicious chicken entrée and a tableful of mouth-watering desserts. Following the invocation by tutor Bob Kever, everyone enjoyed a fabulous dinner. New officers were then installed (see page 2). Adult learner Pedro Ortega, who has been working with tutors Pete Gaskell and Susan Wiley, then gave a very moving keynote speech. After describing his life in Mexico and the United States, Ortega said, "For me being tutored is not hard because it is something I want to do to make my life better. It is very important to me. If something is very important to you, then it is easy to do." (For the full text, see page 3).

Program Directors Kathy Alberter and Linda Browner then presented Student Awards to Mary Alston, Evelyn Atwater, Marvin Ford, Will Hardman, Vance Jacobs, Mamadou

Mdiaye, Ricky Rankin, John Taylor, Abraham Williams, and Louise Evans Lawson Long. Then all students were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.

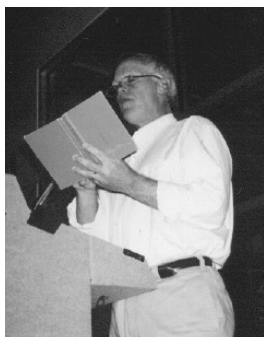


*Tutor Howard Fried with Linda Browner and Kathy Alberter (L to R)*

Susan Attermeier, OCLC founder and Tutor Training

Team member, then presented the Tutor Award to new tutor Gail Fairbanks for her many contributions to the Council. Bob Magan was once again recognized as the tutor with the most volunteer hours—163 hours in 2002! All tutors were recognized for their dedication and hard work.

Weimer then saluted the Board, Honorary Board members, and staff. She recognized outgoing Board President Patricia Gee for her wonderful work over the past year, and retiring Board member Nancy Morton for a decade of service. Director Lucy Lewis concluded the evening by thanking all those present for a year full of wonderful accomplishments.



### Edgerton Delights at Panzanella Event

Clyde Edgerton wowed a full house of literacy supporters at Panzanella on February 3 with old and new readings. Edgerton, author of numerous acclaimed novels

regaled the crowd by reading from *Whiskey, The Fish and the* and *He*. He then read from a work in progress, *How to Create the Step*, the first voices of his characters, including the senior residents of a

nursing home. Edgerton, a member of the Rank Stranger Band, provided a special treat with banjo and guitar playing.

This delightful performance was preceded by a delicious dinner of Panzanella's assorted pizzas and a dessert tray of fresh fruits and chocolate biscotti. Shannon Ravenel, Edgerton's editor at Algonquin Press and a member of our Honorary Advisory Board, introduced Edgerton. Ravenel first spoke about the workshop participants she has worked with through the Council's Creative Writing Workshop program at the IFC Community House and the importance of adult literacy. A huge thanks to Clyde Edgerton, Panzanella and General Manager Rob Nichols, Borders Books and Melanie Gray, and the many volunteers who made this unique fundraiser such a success.

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**Chapel Hill/Carrboro Learning Center and Administrative Offices**

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[www.orangeliteracy.org](http://www.orangeliteracy.org)

**Michael Malone Story Highlights Read-A-Week April 7-13**

For the second year, a noted Orange County author will provide a story for the annual Read-A-Week sponsored by the Orange County READS initiative. Michael Malone, author of The Last Noel, Red Clay Blue Cadillac: Stories of Twelve Southern Women, and a series of mysteries set in the fictional Hillton, is writing a story just for Orange County readers of all ages. Bi-lingual copies of the story, accompanied by suggested discussion ideas, will be printed by local media during April 7-11 and free copies will also be available at

local libraries, community centers, and key community locations. Malone will be reading from his story at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northern Orange Parent University at Cameron Park Elementary School on Thursday, April 10 and signing books from Brick Alley Books. He will also be reading in Branch's Bookstore in Chapel Hill on March 26 at 7pm.

Orange County READS hopes that the entire community will read and discuss Malone's story with their children and friends, at work or over a cup of coffee. This was the idea behind Orange County READS efforts to encourage community residents, young and old, to share a common reading experience. Last year Lee Smith gave permission for her delightful story, "My Mother's Recipe Box" to be featured during Read-A-Week and appeared at two library readings. *We hope that all Orange County Literacy Council tutors and students read the story and discuss the related questions, as well as ideas and comments of their own. Staff, board, students, and volunteers are also encouraged to be part of this countywide effort, and to attend a Malone reading in their area.*

**Welcome and Thank Yous to Board of Directors**

The Literacy Council elected a terrific group of new officers for the Board at their November meeting. The new officers are Rita Weimer, Present; Sarah Cooley, Vice-President; and Allan Conley, Treasurer. We'd like to thank retiring Board President Patricia Gee for her commitment and Board leadership. In particular, Gee skillfully guided the Board through much of the process of updating our strategic plan. We are also grateful for the decade of dedicated service from retiring Board member, Nancy Morton. Fortunately, Morton has promised to continue volunteering with OCLC activities!

Three Board members have recently joined the Literacy Council and we are excited about the new energy, ideas and expertise that they bring. Anne D'Annunzio graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill, stayed home with her three children for a few years, and then began teaching English to high-school students, first in Hoke County and then in Orange County. While teaching, she also worked with the High School Literacy Project, a collaborative venture including the Duke Center for Documentary Studies, conducting research and then implementing literacy programs based on that research, working with the UNC Professional Development School. She is currently the Public Information Coordinator for Orange County Schools.

Tony Dixon was born and raised in Hillsborough. He says that he joined the Board because, "I am interested in literacy not only for myself, but for people who grew up in Hillsborough. I know the children of people who worked in the textile mills and furniture factory. Now that's gone and there aren't a whole lot of choices for people who don't have lots of education... There is a great need for people to get more education because what their parents and grandparents did is gone."

Anne Purcell is also a lifelong Hillsborough resident. She graduated from Elon with a BA in Education and a Masters in Education. She also has a Masters from NCSU in School Administration. Purcell says, "I am married to a wonderful man and have three fantastic sons ages 23, 19 and 16." She taught middle and high school social studies prior to assuming her current position as Assistant Principal at Orange High School four years ago.

## BANQUET SPEECH

By Pedro Ortega

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Pedro Ortega. I'm a student in the Orange County Literacy Council program and meet with my tutors at the Skills Development Center in Chapel Hill. I'm from Mexico, from the city of Queretaro in the state of Queretaro.

When I was very little, my family decided to move to another very small town. My dad owned a farm there with land and animals...I went with my father to the fields. I took care of the animals at home.

The biggest problem was we had no water on the farm. One of my jobs was to take the donkey to a town to get water. I had to do this several times a day. I went to school for two or three years when we lived in this very small town. I had to walk very far to the school. It took about an hour. But I had to help my family and so did not go to school any more. I grew up like that with no education. It was hard for me to do everything.

Then my family moved to a larger town about the size of Chapel Hill. I didn't go to school there either. I had to work. When I was about ten years old, I worked to support myself. I worked with my friends on construction sites. When I was fifteen years old, I came to America. First I lived in Chicago and worked in restaurants. When I was eighteen, I started working in construction. When I was twenty-one, I moved to N.C.

My first job was in landscaping, cutting grass. I moved up to doing cabinets. Now I am still doing cabinets. I like the job just like I like education.

I have been with the Literacy Council since April of this year. I read about the council on a bulletin board notice.

I came to see Mrs. Browner. I talked to her about a class with a tutor for writing and spelling. I said I didn't know how to write and I think I need some help to read. A couple of weeks later she found Pete and said he will help you learn to write. Pete has been teaching me how to write and how to pronounce the words that I don't know how to say.

I know he wants me to learn how to write because if somebody doesn't know how to write, it is very hard to understand them, especially when somebody like me tried to write. In addition to writing, I asked Mrs. Browner to help me with a math tutor. In May, I began to study with Susan. I meet with Susan every Wednesday evening for two hours. Pete and I meet every Tuesday evening for two hours. We meet at the Skills Center in Chapel Hill.

After I came to the United States, people asked if I went to school. The answer was no. They said that I needed education. Even though I was not in school, I try to get education. I practiced writing and read in English. On one of my jobs, I realized that I needed to improve my reading and writing. My goal is to get a better job. To get better, I need to read and write. I need to learn math. I need to think better. Becoming a student is not hard for me because I know how important education is.



Congratulations to Evelyn Atwater for getting 100% correct on a recent math test!

What have I learned? In the last six months I have learned new words. I can use them in writing and speaking. At the same time, I have learned a little punctuation. In math I have learned multiplication tables, to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, and some geometry. I think I have learned a lot of things in these topics..

For me it is easier to learn with a tutor. If you need to ask something, you can ask the tutor right away. When I study by myself, I do not do as much work as when I have a tutor.

For me, homework is hard. The difficulty is making time to do homework. I feel like I don't know how to do the work or I forget how to do it.

Tutors should let the student show what they know how to do and then help with the things the students don't know. Students should ask what they want to know. Students should say to themselves – "Education is easy if there is somebody to teach what we want to learn."

Students should try very hard to get the goals they want. Walking from one side of the United States to the other is not hard if you want to learn. I keep going because education will lead to a better life and job. I hope to have a house and a family and be able to teach my children better.

I would like to close by thanking the Literacy Council...I also want to thank my tutors, Pete Gaskill and Susan Wiley and all of you for coming tonight.

*Share Your Writings and Successes!*

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



Using a tape recorder to strengthen literacy skills

### ***Tutor Tip:*** **Using Tape Recorders**

Many students have tape recorders. They can be a valuable educational tool during your tutoring sessions. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Record a student's oral reading. Ask them to play it back. Self-identification of his/her own reading problem is valuable to the student who may seek ways to correct them next time. In addition, it is a good way to review and reinforce concepts
- 2) Make a recording of a written piece the student finds interesting. Have the student read along while listening to the tape. Like duet reading, repeating this several times will help improve the student's sight vocabulary and fluency.
- 3) Tape the student's oral reading at intervals and use it for tangible evidence of progress. Record the date on each tape.
- 4) Use the tape recorder to critique a lesson. Record an entire session. Who is doing the most talking? Is there respectful dialogue between the tutor and student? Are you giving the student enough time to process and respond to questions?

Need a tape recorder?  
Contact Linda or Kathy!

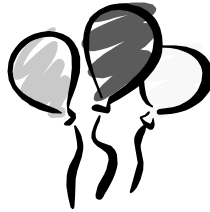
## **APRIL 3 INSERVICE WORKSHOP FOR ALL TUTORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Join us on for a two-part inservice workshop on Thursday, April 3, 2003 at the Skills Development Center from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Learn about integrating technology into your tutoring. See software such as Lexia and New Reader Bookstore demonstrated; work "hands on" with programs; see what's new.

Think you know math?? Maybe not! Join the group in learning about the new, and now required for GED math, Casion fx 260 solar scientific calculator. Find square roots, exponents, and solve equations.

Please RSVP to OCLC at 933-2151 if you plan to attend.



### ***Welcome New Tutors!***

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

Deborah Baldwin

Robert

Bogle

Jessica Bromwell  
Kathleen Hunter  
Christine Penttila

Helen Conrad  
Julie Roach  
Courtney Weill

### **OCLC Needs *More* Tutors**

Wanted: Volunteers who want to tutor adult learners.

Requirements: Good readers, enjoy working with people, patient  
Training provided: Spring Tutor Training Workshop will be:

- Saturday, May 31
- Monday evening, June 2
- Wednesday evening, June 4

We are delighted to have new tutors joining us from the winter training workshop, but unfortunately we have a growing waiting list of adult learners. If you have been reading this newsletter and thinking you might be interested in tutoring, please contact us at 933-2151 for information about orientation dates prior to the Spring Workshop. And spread the word!

### **Goodbye, Kit**

Kit Stanley, our Community Computer-based GED Coordinator, resigned to take a full-time position with the Chatham County Guardian Ad Litem program. While Kit was with OCLC through the Community Development Block Grant funded-program she successfully recruited new students and also helped the Council develop new funding resources. Best wishes, Kit!

National Volunteer Week is April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We'd like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the terrific work of all our volunteers. We couldn't do this work without you!

Thanks to Friends of OCLC: Thanks to the many Friends, new and continuing, who have provided critical financial support since November 1, 2002:

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 Sandra Yaggy

#### To Whole Foods:

Whole Foods designated the Orange County Literacy Council to receive 5% of its proceeds on January 14. Whole Foods also shone their Community Spotlight on the Literacy Council throughout January, hosting an OCLC bulletin board and placing brochures and contribution canisters at each cash register. As a result of this generous support, the Literacy Council received more than \$3,000 to purchase updated pre-GED and GED software and other critically needed educational materials. Thanks to Rita Weimer and Polly Moreau for staffing the OCLC booth in January. And a special thanks to Whole Foods for their continuing support of adult literacy in our community.

#### And To:

- Borders Books for providing a fundraising giftwrapping opportunity during the December holidays, and for continuing to display OLC contribution canisters at their cash registers.
- Thanks to Kara Baldwin, Paul and Jessica Bell, Mary Ellen Bowers, Ed Durand, Gail Fairbanks, Bob Furtado, Velverton Land, Jean Meier, Donna Nixon, Sue Pearce, Mona Peters, Kit Stanley, Cindy Suffern, Betty Zelman, and Sandra Yaggy – our Borders giftwrappers.
- East Chapel Hill Rotary Club and President Trey Doak for designating OCLC as one of the beneficiaries for their recent Mike Cross concert fundraiser.

- Barnes and Noble for providing a fundraising giftwrapping opportunity during the December holidays
- Thanks to Francis Coyle, Phyllis Farlow, Diane Feldman, Luli Gray, Carol Haynie, Dazzie Lane, Sally McKenzie, Carol Strickland, Gayle Striefford, Terese Johnson, Wanda Weaver, and Sue Wilkins – our Barnes and Nobles giftwrappers.
- Former staffer AnneMarie McCaig and her colleagues at the Visiting International Faculty Program for their generous contribution.
- North Carolina Writers Network for making the Literacy Council an "honorary member"
- Dr. Barry Adler for a free eye exam and pair of glasses for an adult learner.
- Dr. Laurel Gropper for a free eye exam for an adult learner
- Dr. Thomas Costabile and Mr. Fred Conner of Optical Reflections for a free eye exam and pair of glasses for an adult learner

#### Harris Teeter's Together In Education Program Magic Number: 4935

There is still time to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to the OCLC and raise money for adult literacy! At your next visit to HT, simply tell the cashier at checkout that you would like to link your VIC card to support the OCLC and that our number is 4935. That's all you have to do. Through May, 2003, the OCLC will receive a rebate of 2% of your Private Label (HT brand, Premier Selection, More Value, Hunter Farms, HT Traders, Highland Crest) purchases. (There is no additional charge to you, but you must have a VIC card.) After you have linked your card the first time, all subsequent shopping purchases through the year will be automatically credited to our account. Tell your friends and family to link up and support the OCLC now! Thanks to Harris Teeter for their support of education and adult literacy.

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I would like to become a friend of the OCLC.

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

\$ 500 purchases an adult literacy software program

\$ 100 subsidizes a tutor training workshop

\$ 50 purchases PhonoGraphix workbooks for adult learners with characteristics of learning disabilities

\$ 25 provides an adult learner with workbooks for a year

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Orange County Literacy Council**  
503 W. Franklin St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Please do not mention my name in newsletter.

**Thank you for supporting adult literacy!**

# Southern Living Idea House

M E A D O W M O N T  
O F C H A P E L H I L L

June 14 through September 28, 2003



Built by Dixon/Kirby & Company of Cary, NC

The Southern Living Idea House is one of three 2003 showcase homes built to highlight the best in architectural and residential design. The Meadowmont home will be open to the public June 14 through September 28, and will be featured in the August issue of

Southern Living magazine. A portion of the proceeds will benefit participating member agencies of Triangle United Way serving Orange County, whose volunteers will serve as hosts of the Idea House.



Now is your chance to visit a Southern Living House *for free*, host *other* visitors, and help the OCLC raise money! The OCLC is hosting the week of July 16-30, and we are looking for volunteer hosts. Visit our website or call 933-2151 to sign up now.

## Orange County Literacy Council

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Orange County  
Partnership for  
Young Children



Please call us if you have moved and give us your new address.  
Also, please call us if you would like to be removed from the mailing list.