

# the following

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Vol. 6, No. 1

February 1992

## Reunion Update

**T**his year's Residential College reunion weekend is May 15-17. If you were a freshman in 1978, '79, or '80, you'll receive a special reunion insert in this newsletter. If you weren't part of those classes but plan to be in Greensboro that weekend, remember that this is also UNC-G's Centennial, and a number of special activities are scheduled. From your editor's admittedly biased perspective, the most interesting will be a choral reunion concert on Saturday, the 16th, at 3:00 p.m. Also on that day, the Provost will speak at the "University Update Breakfast," held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.; the annual meeting of the alumni association, which is open to all alumni, will be held in Aycock Auditorium from 10:30 to 12:30; and Weatherspoon Art Gallery will be open in the afternoon. More information should be forthcoming soon from the alumni association. And by the way, two of the photographs on the Centennial poster were taken by former RCer Felixa Sommer.

Back to the RC reunion: If you have any questions, contact the RC office--immediately!

## New Directions

**I**n just a few years, this newsletter has already seen several editors and at least one name change. Now it's time for a few design alterations. (Q: What was that computer image doing up on the nameplate, anyway? A: It was one of the few graphic elements the RC computer could spit out.) The timing seemed right--after all, RC is itself facing some alterations. Among other news, Dick Whitlock is retiring at the end of the calendar year, after the fall semester. For more changes in direction, read on...

# Director's Letter

Dear Over-the-Hill Gang,

There is something surrealistically comic about my sitting here hunched over a word processor laboriously pecking this out with one finger of my left hand (My right arm, surgically repaired, is slung unceremoniously, but obviously, across my belly. Fran says that fully dressed I remind her of a mother kangaroo packing her joey over the Outback). Still, perhaps there is something appropriate in this ridiculous posture to the writing of a valedictory; it keeps things like sentimentality mockingly in perspective. What is true is that after 12 years (with one off for good behavior) I am turning the direction of the Residential College over to someone else (as yet unknown). It is hard to know what life after RC will be like.

1980 is a long time ago by some measures and much good and bad, light and dark has transpired. Who would have guessed RC would outlast the Soviet Union? I am personally a little irritated that I couldn't outlast Bush. At any rate, RC moves into the end of the century stubbornly and proudly alive, still the most interesting place I know of to begin college and adult learning. I am leaving it facing some large challenges: new direction and administration, a difficult matter of course accreditation, and a full-scale outside review next year that will in large measure determine its future. I worry about these things, but I also leave confident in the weed-like healthiness of the program. And I also think that the one measurable difference that I have made in my tenure has been to cultivate in the administration of the university from top to bottom a real respect for and commitment to the value of RC to the enterprise as a whole.

I leave, I guess I have forgotten to tell you, entirely for reasons of health. I simply can no longer physically tolerate the stresses of management and bureaucracy. I am sorry that that is true because for the most part I truly enjoyed this task which has been so much my life and love for so long a time. But I am one of those slightly irritating people who are firmly convinced that things happen for purposeful and not just accidental reasons, so I think that it must indeed be time to step aside. It has been a good ride, a little roller-coastery perhaps, full of high exhilarations and deep sadnesses, peopled with a lot of wonderful fellow travelers without whom it wouldn't have been nearly as satisfying, and best of all, never boring. I remember the last real roller-coaster ride I took, with Emily as a child, and how, exciting as it was, how lovely and tranquil it was to come into the station-landing, having survived, by God, and Fran waiting.

Much love always,

Murray



# One Cure for the Summertime Blues

Last summer, while teenagers across the U.S. were flipping burgers and working on their tans, 37 rising high school juniors and seniors got a preview of college via the first Summer Residential College. For three weeks in July, the students were immersed in the rhythms and rituals of RC life--the combination of living and learning, the joys of Core, creative projects, even Piney Lake--and they earned three hours of college credit in the process.

The program won an award from the North American Association of Summer Sessions; the association named the program the nation's "Most Outstanding Credit Program" and cited its "creativity, uniqueness, and impact on students."

What did you do the summer after your junior year in high school? Imagine studying American dreams during a morning Core session and then, in the afternoon, attending one of four seminar classes--"Passage Fiction" (taught by Fran Arndt), "Growing Up in America" (Bob Calhoun), "Surveying American Landscapes" (Charlie Headington), or "Contemporary American Voices" (Debbie Huger). Imagine, too, cook-outs, movies, special evening programs, and workshops on study skills. No wonder the program was such a success. As one student put it, "It is an opportunity which others should not pass up."

In planning this year's program, the faculty had intended to develop an entirely new curriculum. After several meetings, however, they decided to retain the original focus

The summer students were a "very fresh, bright group."

on the American dream and to refine both Core and the individual seminars to reflect their own and the students' evaluations.

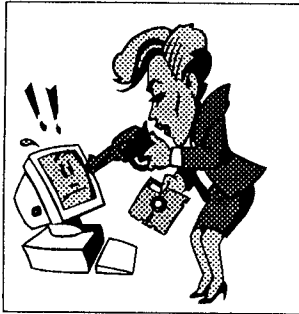
If this year's crop of students is anything like the inaugural group, Fran, Bob, Charlie, and Debbie will have another rewarding summer. As Debbie said, "The students were a very fresh, bright, creative group, not jaded at all. Yet they had already had a wide range of experiences, and we were impressed with how much they already knew." Debbie added that the students "made friends easily" with one another and the teachers. "You got a wonderful feeling when you walked into the parlor. I was sorry to see them go at the end; I had become quite attached to them." The students became equally attached; several of the faculty members have gotten letters, and at least one of the students is applying to UNC-G and RC for next fall.

For those of us who remember the days when RC was often at odds with the university, it seems ironic that the direct impetus for the summer program came from the Continuing Education department. But as Betty Carpenter said, "The population of high school students is declining, and UNC-G is involved with a number of new initiatives that will pull good students into the university." In a stroke of understatement, she noted that the Continuing Education folks felt that RC was "perhaps the best place on campus to do this kind of program."

--Jean Shaw

# Friends of RC

What a group. The money just keeps on coming from all you RCers out there. It's a good thing, too, because we need it! Consider this: Just as the December issue of this fabulous newsletter was ready to be mailed, the hard drive on the RC computer sighed, burped, and died, leaving Martha Anne minus mailing labels. The money for repairs was found, so the computer is operating again, but do we need a new computer OR WHAT?!?



So do consider sending in money and earmarking it just for the computer fund. If you happen to have a spare computer lounging around and would like to create a tax deduction for yourself, we'd be thrilled to consider that, too.

The newest 1991-92 members of the Friends of RC are:

*Louis Abramovitz  
Sabrina G. Goode  
Jan Middleton Kurtz  
Nancy Marshall  
Terry Nixon McLaren  
Rick Stone*

*David Boutwell  
Ellen Gozion  
Heather Lankford  
Claire E. McGuffey  
Eddie L. Roland  
Carol Witherspoon*

*Claudia Green Cushman  
Hazel Hartsoe  
Eric Marshall  
Marjorie McKelvy  
Sherrie Grainger Stewart*

And these folks gave money for a new computer:

*Heather Krill  
Claire E. McGuffey*

*Jan Middleton Kurtz  
Roy Schantz*

*Heather Lankford  
Rick Stone*

*Remember, too, that there's another way to indicate your commitment to RC. When the Alumni office contacts you, asking for money, note on your form (and check) that the money is for the Ashby Dialogues. The money keeps the Ashby Dialogues thriving--and sends a message about our 20 years of existence.*

# FRIENDS OF RC

Dues: \$10.00 per year for non-current students  
\$ 5.00 per year for 1st- and 2nd-year graduates

Make your check payable to The Residential College and mail to:

Friends of RC  
Residential College  
UNC-Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC 27412

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

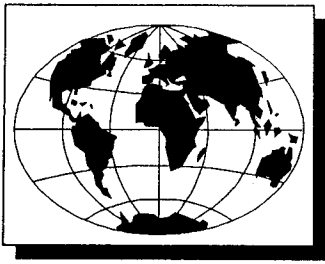
News: \_\_\_\_\_

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Names and addresses of any other RCers:

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## Alumni Notes and News

**Louis Abramovitz** ('86) lives in Clemmons. He got his Master's in Applied Geography from UNC-Charlotte in 1990 and is now the manager of research for the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. His wife Lynda is an attorney and paralegal instructor at Forsyth Tech.

**Melissa Allen** ('84) will marry Fred Meyerhofer on March 14 in Raleigh.

**Benton Bogel** ('78) and his wife **Alice Breen** ('80) are expecting their third baby in August.

**Wendy Broderick** ('87) lives in Greensboro; she'll marry Jeff Schwalber in August.

**Kim Chaney** ('82) is interning at an Indianapolis TV station this semester, working on producing and writing in public affairs and consumer news.

**Mark Cheek** ('80) is getting married, rumor has it.

**Claudia Green Cushman** ('75) and her family now live in Durham. Her husband works at the Research Triangle Institute; Claudia is at home with their two small children and has returned to her creative endeavors via painting fabric and then quilting it.

**Ellen Gozion** ('81) landed a great job as accompanist for dance classes at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. She started in September and writes that "it's going very well, and of course I am happy in my work."

**Ralph Kirschner** ('76) lives in Hamburg, Germany. He received an MA in German from Indiana U. in 1981 and moved to Germany in 1984. He has lived in Hamburg since 1986, working as a technical translator. In 1989, he married Silvia Kunze, who is a marketing agent for a computer software firm. Write Ralph at: Lappenbergsalle 41, 2000 Hamburg 20, Germany.

**Janet Middleton Kurtz** and her husband Brian had a boy, James, in September. Jan is on leave from her job teaching English at a Charlotte high school; Brian is a CPA and works for a plastics manufacturing firm in Gastonia.

**Heather Lankford** ('87) is working with Key Risk Management Inc., a third party administrator.

**Nancy and Eric Marshall** ('81) live on a farm with their baby girl, dog, and two horses. Nancy still teaches at West Forsyth High School and is still regional manager for Finlay Fine Jewelry. She's also gotten involved with Civil War reenactments.

**Marjorie McKelvy** ('87) has been doing "various and sundry temporary jobs" since she graduated last May. She writes that "every now and then, I have to throw that environmental video back in the VCR--the one that John Rotan and Chad and I did for Charlie Headington's class and where Betty and Murray throw Chad down the trash chute--and I laugh like hell. John calls it 'every R Cer's worst nightmare.' "

**Terry Nixon McLaren** ('77) lives in Bridgeport, Conn.

**Betsy Lane Neas** ('75) popped with baby #3---Emily Anne Neas--on Feb. 5, just as this issue of the newsletter was being finished. Perfect timing, Betsy!

**Martha Ann Ferrell Patterson** ('82) and her husband Rob are expecting their first baby in April. They'll all be moving to New Bern in June, where Rob will join an ob-gyn practice.

**Eddie Roland** ('79) left the U.S. Navy in November and now lives in Dublin, Ohio with his wife Wendy Drewry and their two boys, Jacob and Drew. Wendy is a biological research associate at Ohio State U.

**LaDonna Sigmon** ('86) married Danny Bolton Jr. last September in Conover. She is with GDS Recycling Services, and he is with Custom Plumbing and Heating.

**Michelle Morefield Stegall** ('82) is still teaching in the Virginia Beach, Va. school system.

**Sherrie Grainger Stewart** and her husband Harrison live in Greensboro with their children Will, 5, Elizabeth, 2 1/2, and Grainger, 9 months.

**Rick Stone** ('73) practices criminal law in Eden; he and his wife now have 4 children.

**Carol Witherspoon** ('80) lives in Summerfield and works for the Natural Science Center of Greensboro as the curator of community programs, providing science enrichment programs to museum members, visitors, and the community at large.

**Marjorie Spruill Wheeler's** revised dissertation on the women's suffrage movement in the South was accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. She's continuing to enjoy teaching in the history department at the U. of Southern Mississippi; her husband David is chair of the English Department there and is working on a Wbook on Alexander Pope's early poetry.

**Byron Woods** ('78) has sent in his latest missive. It reads: "Byron threatens to complete his MA in Speech Communications/Performance Studies at Chapel Hill in less than half the time it took him to mount a BA at UNC-G (actually, less than one-third the time, if we are counting hiatuses and such and yes we are). He has distinguished himself primarily by a series of increasingly cryptic performances, the latest of which, an autobiographical one-man show called 'The Hope of My Generation,' will be a mainstage performance at the Flint Hills/Ozark Performance Festival in Springfield, Mo. in mid-February." Byron is also applying to the doctoral program at Southern Illinois U. in Carbondale.

## Pizza and Pumpkins

The Alumni Association sponsored a Halloween Party for current RC'ers on Wednesday, October 30th. As usual, pizza was the preferred entrée and not a slice was left over from the 22 pizzas ordered. Student and faculty turnout was high, perhaps prompted by the subsequent pumpkin carving contest held outside on the patio after dinner. Six teams of 3-4 students each tried their hand at carving the most interesting pumpkin, and in true RC fashion, the results were unique. First prize went to the pumpkin voted "Most Likely to Succeed in the Outside World," and the winning carvers won coveted movie tickets to the Janus Theatres. Second and third prizes went to the pumpkin "Most Resembling Chartres Cathedral" and the pumpkin "Most Representative of the Poor Under the Reagan Administration." Prizes were awarded by Dr. Charles Headington of Religious Studies and included animal masks, spooky sounds and designer witch earrings, to name a few. Other entries worth mentioning included Snoopy as the Great Pumpkin, and a sock-eared Halloween Bunny. After the carving, all pumpkin creations were lined up on the wall outside Mary Foust where they glowed with the warmth of the evening's festivities. Needless to say, a fun time was had by all!

Kathy D'Angelo -- RC Alumni Assn. Co-chair

Dated Material--Please Forward

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