

From the President

Plummer Alston 'Al' Jones, Jr., President

Milestones in North Carolina Librarianship IV

North Carolina libraries and librarians continue to make news at the state, regional, and national levels. Let's see what has been going on since the beginning of 2001!

On behalf of NCLA, I attended the Second Statewide Leadership Conference on Access to Special Collections at High Point on April 4, 2001. During this conference a new Web portal to be maintained by the State Library of North Carolina was unveiled and dedicated by the new Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth 'Libba' C. Evans. The new Web portal is called NC ECHO (Exploring Cultural History Online). The URL is <www.ncecho.org>.

NC ECHO provides Web access to special collections in libraries, archives, and museums across the state. This project is 100% supported by federal Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS).

On February 25, 2001, PLCMC became the only public library in the southeast, and one of only two public libraries in the United States, to present "The Buffalo Soldier: The African American Soldier in the U.S. Army, 1866-1912 — From the Collection of Anthony L. Powell." The exhibit highlighted the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, whose legacy dates back to the U.S. wars against the Native Americans during the 1800s. In addition to showcasing rare photographs and artifacts, "The Buffalo Soldier" inaugurates the new "Gallery L" at the Main Library.

StoryPlace, an animated story and activity site for children published by the PLCMC is being co-branded as part of Lycos.Zone <www.lycoszone.com> in an agreement recently reached with Lycos.com. LycosZone, a children's Web site, is part of Lycos, the popular search engine and information portal. PLCMC is the first library to co-brand a Web site with a major Internet portal. The new site has been live since January 30, 2001.

I would like to have a reorganization meeting several times during the Biennial Conference this fall to discuss various options for revitalizing NCASL. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to get input from the NCASL members who have remained within NCLA.

It is my distinct pleasure to be a part of the planning committee for the work of the NCLA Endowment Committee under the leadership of Elizabeth J. Laney, Chair. NCLA will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2004. In recognition of this momentous event in NCLA's history, the members of the Endowment Committee have accepted the challenge of building the NCLA Endowment to \$100,000 by 2004. Letters have been written to the various constituencies of NCLA. Please be generous!

I have been in contact with Meralyn Meadows of the Stanly County Public Library, former chair and organizer of the North Carolina Library Paraprofessional Association, to work with current chair Frances Lampley to revitalize the round table. I am very excited about having Meralyn return to a leadership role with NCLA.

Theron Bell, a library advocate par excellence, is chair of the Public Library Trustees Association. She hopes to be in contact with all friends of the library organizations in the state and local public library trustees in order to plan some exciting programs for the upcoming Biennial Conference this fall. Theron, who hails from Robbins, is also a member of the State Library Commission.

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) recently launched Kudzu, a system of linked online catalogs at thirteen research libraries. Kudzu connects more than 180,000 students and faculty to more than 23 million volumes. You can preview Kudzu at <www.aserl.org>. Wake Forest University is one of the 13 ASERL members, along with Tulane University, Clemson University, Auburn University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Vanderbilt University, Mississippi State University, and Universities of Mississippi, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee-Knoxville, Alabama-Birmingham, and Louisville.

Mary Reichel, University Librarian at Appalachian State University and President-Elect of the Association of College & Research Libraries, has been named the first Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor for Library and Information Studies. The professor-

ship was established through a gift from Irwin and Carol G. Belk of Charlotte and matching funds from a state program designed to attract and retain exceptional faculty. Reichel was also the recipient of ACRL's Miriam Dudley Instruction Library Award in 1999.

Ken Eudy of Capital Strategies, Inc. is the first lobbyist registered by the State of North Carolina to advocate the position of libraries of all types, but particularly public libraries, with regard to the Internet filtering legislation being debated by both houses of the North Carolina Legislature. Eudy is volunteering on a pro bono basis to protect the rights of library patrons to freedom of access to material on the Internet.

A new NCLA brochure and display have been developed by the NCLA Membership Committee. Our thanks to Peggy Quinn of Wake Technical Community College for her coordination of efforts that have led to the availability of an up-to-date brochure describing NCLA's goals, strategies, and information about membership in NCLA's sections and round tables. The trifold display is designed to allow flexibility in the presentation of information and to be customized to meet the needs of the section or round table using it. To obtain a supply of brochures and to reserve the display for your upcoming events, contact the NCLA office at <ncla@mindspring.com>.

The Third Biennial NCLA Leadership Institute was a tremendous success. On April 5, 2001, I received a letter to the NCLA Executive Board from a participant in the recent 2001 NCLA Leadership Institute. The participant expressed her gratitude for being able to participate in such a useful program. "The Institute made me reflect on who I am as a person, who I am as a librarian within my institution, and who I have the potential to be as a leader in the greater North Carolina library community." Wow! The 2001 participants made a presentation at the April 20th meeting of the NCLA Executive Board and reaffirmed their willingness to take on leadership roles with NCLA. Thanks to George Taylor of the Forsyth County Public Library System, Chair of the NCLA Leadership Institute, and all who worked so diligently to provide a meaningful experience for our future library leaders! I have appointed as co-chairs for the 2002 Leadership Institute Teresa McManus (Fayetteville State University) and Robert James (Wake Technical Community College).

Since October 1999 gifts have continued to come into the NCLA office. Please continue to send your contributions to NCLA and note "Floyd Relief Fund" in the lower left-hand corner of your check. Send your checks to Maureen Costello, NCLA, 4646 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4646. NCLA now has a FAX number (919-839-6253) in addition to the regular line (919-839-6252). Remember that the damage done by Hurricane Floyd in the fall of 1999 to eastern North Carolina libraries is still being addressed daily by our colleagues. Please be generous in your support of their efforts to restore library buildings and services!

This is my last column as your President. In place of this column, the Conference issue will present an interview with Ross Holt, who will have assumed the NCLA Presidency at the Biennial Conference to be held October 2-5, 2001 in Winston-Salem. I know that Ross will do an excellent job of keeping the NCLA membership abreast of all the library happenings across our productive state. North Carolina's libraries are living, dynamic treasures. Let's keep them thriving!

A placement center will be held during the NCLA Biennial Conference in Winston-Salem.

The center will be open Wednesday through Thursday, October 3-4, 2001, from 10:00 to 4:00.

Information about position openings, candidates, library school programs and continuing education will be available.

Candidates for positions must register for the conference, but do not have to be members of NCLA to take advantage of this service.

Registration for the conference is available on the NCLA Conference Web site:

<www.nclaonline.org>.

For additional information contact Connie Keller at keller@elon.edu or phone (336)278-6578.