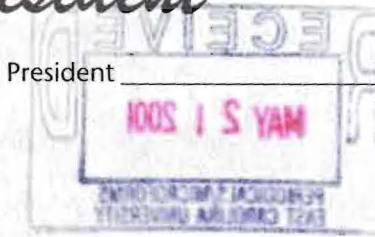


From the President

Plummer Alston 'Al' Jones, Jr., President



Milestones in North Carolina Librarianship III

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Ann Viles, Coordinator of Reference Instruction at Appalachian State University, is the new editor of "Fast Facts," a one-page factsheet feature that appears on the last page of each issue of *College & Research Libraries News*. Academic librarians, get your cool facts and figures to Ann and you, too, might find your name in print!

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Union County plans to spend more than \$4 million on new libraries and renovation of old ones over the next several years. For more expansion news, visit the Union County Public Library Web site at <<http://www.union.lib.nc.us>>.

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The State Library of North Carolina has awarded over \$800,000 in School Library Collection Development Grants to 153 North Carolina schools. Since these grants require matching funds from the local school, this means that these 153 school libraries will buy more than \$1.6 million worth of new books for their students. The State Library also received the Citizen Involvement award from the Raleigh Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities for its support of a project resulting in public access PCs with adaptive

technology that improve access to NC LIVE for North Carolina citizens with disabilities.

On a more somber note, it is my solemn duty to record for posterity the deaths on October 11, 2000, of Vernelle G. Palmer of Salisbury, NCLA President (1957-59) and school librarian in Rowan County, and Mildred S. Council of Mount Olive, NCLA President (1967-69), Librarian Emerita of Mount Olive College, and 1985 Life Member of NCLA. Gifts to the NCLA Endowment in their honor are welcomed. Your gifts will be acknowledged and the families of Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Council will be informed.

The North Carolina State University Libraries *FOCUS* newsletter has been in print since 1964. On October 13th a Web-based version of *FOCUS* was launched. Check it out at <<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/administration/publications/focusonline/index.html>>.

Two North Carolina universities have received gifts to strengthen their libraries. Duke University has received a \$171,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve and provide wider access to the archives of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising, and Marketing History. The archives is the repository for the documents of many advertising agencies, including the official records of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, dating from the nineteenth century, and several related collections of slide, photographs, original artwork for billboards, and correspondence. The School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received a \$120,000 gift from Cisco Systems Inc. and the Cisco Systems Foundation to honor the university's late chancellor. The newly established Michael Hooker Graduate Fellowship in Applied Networking will help pay tuition and expenses for a graduate student who is studying development and management of networked information systems.

Sandra Cooper and Frannie Ashburn of the State Library of North Carolina are both contributors to *The Functions and Roles of State Library Agencies*, a new publication from the American Library Association. Ron Jones, a State Library recent retiree, was a featured participant in the Wake County Storytelling Festival held in Raleigh on September 29-30, 2000; Ron was profiled in an article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* on September 29, 2000.

The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County has been ranked as one of the top ten American public libraries serving a population of over 500,000 in the most recent Hennen's American Public Library Rating (HAPLR) Index. The HAPLR rating is based on factors such as circulation, staffing, materials, periodicals, reference service, and funding levels. PLCMC was the only North Carolina library ranked in the top ten in any population category.

The Asheville-Buncombe Library System's West Asheville Branch Library is one of ten more public libraries selected to receive a grant of \$1,000 to host the new *Let's Talk About It: The Next Generation of Reading and Discussion Programs for Libraries* series awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office.

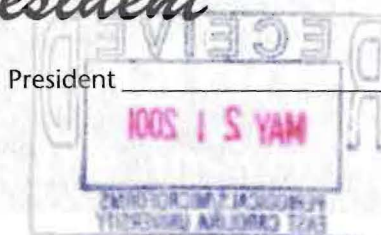
The New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington is one of fourteen additional libraries selected nationwide to participate in the *Prime Time Family Reading Time* reading, discussion, and storytelling series offered by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the American Library Association's Public Programs Office. The project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *Prime Time*, based on illustrated children's books, is designed specifically to help underserved families with children bond around the act of reading and learning together. The series teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics, and aids them in selecting books and becoming active public library users.

In a joint press conference held on December 14, 2000, the Children's Theatre of Charlotte and the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County announced that land has been secured for a new Children's Learning Center, which will be named in honor of Joseph B. Martin III, a longtime Charlotte civic leader. The announcement took place at the future site of the facility in the heart of Charlotte's uptown Cultural District. Groundbreaking will take place in fall 2001, with the Center scheduled to open in late 2003. The Children's Learning Center will be a 113,000-square foot interactive learning environment, combining library resources, performance spaces, and the latest in educational technology.

Keep up the good work you all are doing to put the national spotlight on North Carolina libraries and the creative services they are providing to North Carolina citizens!

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