

Library Highlights 2007

75th Anniversary of Free Public Library Service in Cumberland County

In January, the library celebrated its 75th anniversary of free public library service with an event at the Headquarters Library. Programs and a reception showcased the many services the library system offers.

Author Events:

A variety of authors spoke at the library during the year in programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library:

Phil Gerard: *Cape Fear Rising, Secret Soldiers and Hatteras Light*

David Clary: *Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship That Saved the Revolution*

Dr. John Griffin: *Abraham Lincoln's Execution*

Lynne Hinton: *Friendship Cake*

Andrew Carroll: *Grace Under Fire: Letters of Faith in Times of War*

Margaret Bigger: *ReTIRED! The Lighter Side of Retirement*

Elliot Engel: *A Dickens of a Christmas*

Photographer Jose Galvez, a Pulitzer Prize winner, spoke during the library's 4th Friday Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and introduced his exhibit of photographs documenting Latino life in the United States.

Friends Sponsored Events Allow Library to Celebrate Lafayette's 250th Birthday

A \$1,060 grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council (NCHC) in support of a visit by David Clary, author of *Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship That Saved the Revolution* was awarded to the Friends.

Dr. Lloyd Kramer, history professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and author of *Lafayette in Two Worlds: Public Cultures and Personal Identities in an Age of Revolution*, spoke at the Headquarters Library.

Numerous Grants Awarded to the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for \$20,000 for The Big Read 2008. The project, set for March 28-April 30, will encourage Cumberland County residents to read and discuss *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County awarded a \$5,000 Project Support grant for The Big Read 2008.

The Friends of the Library also received an \$8,000 grant from the Cumberland Community Foundation for The Big Read 2008.

Purolator Filters NA LLC Foundation awarded a grant for \$14,105 to pay for the publication of 6,000 copies of *The Answer Book*.

The Friends received a \$643 grant distribution from the Frances Brooks Stein & Harry B. Stein Memorial Library Fund, a designated fund of the Cumberland Community Foundation. The grant is used for the continued development of a book and audio visual collection devoted to the enhancement and improvement of teaching skills and education.

Local Wal-Marts have awarded their matched library locations the following grants in 2007: a \$500 community grant to the Spring Lake Branch Library from the Spring Lake Wal-Mart; a \$300 community grant to the Hope Mills Branch Library from the Hope Mills Wal-Mart; a \$500 community grant to the North Regional Library for the purchase of audio books for NRL's juvenile audio book collection (particularly in the area of Battle of the Books selections) from the Ramsey Street Wal-Mart; and a \$1,075 community grant to the Headquarters Library from the Skibo Wal-Mart.

The Estate of Norma Currie established the \$1,000 "Norma Currie Book Fund" in her memory. The funds will be used for the purchase of books in the field of political science and history.

The Kiwanis Club of Spring Lake made a \$300 grant to the Friends of the Library to co-sponsor a Children's Book Week program featuring Carole Boston Weatherford at the Spring Lake Branch.

The Hope Mills Branch received a \$550 unrestricted donation from a Hope Mills customer, Carol Ann Middleton.

Junior League Partnership Grant

Friends of the Library received a partnership grant for \$24,682.88 to fund "Gaming and More for Teens at East Regional Branch Library." The money will be used for the purchase of computer gaming equipment and games, 14 laptop computers and teen-

friendly furniture for East Regional’s “Chillax Room,” which had its “grand-opening” in October.

Federal Grant Received

A \$25,000 LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant, awarded by the State Library, enabled the library to replace 31 computers in the children’s sections of all seven libraries, as well as purchase two additional children’s computers for the Headquarters Library.

Awards

The Community Relations (CR) Department received an award certificate from the Library Public Relations Council in October for four publicity items that were chosen for the council’s “Share the Wealth” packets (a magnet, notepad, flyer and a library *Calendar of Events*).

The North Carolina Alliance of Information and Referral Services named the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center its “Agency of the Year.” The alliance recognized the library’s *Answer Book*.

The North Carolina Public Library Directors Association presented the library with two awards in the categories of “Outstanding Children’s Program” (*Preschool Performers*) and “Outstanding Public Relations Project” (*The Big Read*).

2007 Big Read Activities

The Big Read 2007 was a five-week long community-wide reading project held March 23-April 27 celebrating *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. The Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center received \$27,400 in grants for the project:



\$11,500 from the National Endowment for the Arts for The Big Read initiative;

\$1,500 from the Arts Council;

\$7,200 from the Cumberland Community Foundation and a matching grant of \$7,200 from the Kellogg Foundation.

More than 40 programs were held across the county. Events ranged from book discussions to distinguished speakers like biographer Valerie Boyd and Dr. Trudier Harris. Major partners included Fayetteville State University, Methodist University, Fort Bragg’s John L. Throckmorton Library, the Pope Air Force Base Library, Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville Museum of Art, the Museum of the Cape Fear and Barnes & Noble.

Volunteer Receives County Award

Pam Boose, volunteer extraordinaire at the Headquarters Library, was the recipient of the first “Cumberland County Cares” award at a Commissioners’ meeting.

Library Enters Into Agreement over Answer Book Service

The Library entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults regarding the library’s participation in the NC Care Link data project. The Library uploaded *Answer Book* records into the NC Care Link’s software this year.

Foreign Language Center, Scheduled to Close, Receives a Reprieve from the State Library

The decision to discontinue the Foreign Language Center (FLC) subscription service was made in May after two major subscribers representing over 40% of the income for the FLC operation declined to renew contracts. The service was to be discontinued effective June 30, 2007. The State Library of North Carolina, in consultation with Library Director Jerry Thrasher and key library staff, announced that it would designate federal LSTA funds to continue the Foreign Language subscription service for another year—through FY2008.

FY08 will be considered a “test year,” during which the State Library will conduct a study in order to evaluate the need for a future statewide foreign language subscription service.

Electronic Receipts Program Adopted in Library Circulation Departments

Library staff worked with County IT staff to develop an electronic receipts program in all the library facilities. This system replaces hand-written receipts, which were a time-intensive and costly process.

Director Announces Retirement

On July 12 Library Director Jerry Thrasher announced his plan to retire effective January 1, 2008. At retirement, he will have completed 28 years of service as director of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center. Staff celebrated his leadership at Staff Development Day on December 7 and participated in a larger community celebration on December 15.

The city of Fayetteville announced December 15 as “Jerry Thrasher Day.”

New Library Director Appointed by Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees announced on November 20 that Deputy Director Jody Risacher would succeed Jerry Thrasher as Library Director of the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center on January 1, 2008.

Joint West Regional Branch Library Planning Continued

Planning on the proposed new West Regional Branch Library and School Media Center continued with meetings to develop schematic drawings for the 14,000 square foot joint facility. School media center and library staff met and discussed automation operating options for the loaning of materials. Numerous meetings were held to discuss design, technology and financing.

NASA Space Exhibit on Display at Headquarters

ViewSpace has been provided in the Headquarters Library by the Space Telescope Science Institute, home of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and its successor, the James Webb Space Telescope. ViewSpace uses the Internet and a computer-driven display to share its multimedia presentations about astronomy, including the latest developments from cutting-edge space missions.

Significant Staff Achievements

Jamaal Fisher, Library Associate II-Information Services/Teen Services at East Regional Branch Library, entered North Carolina Central's Master of Library Science Program this month. Jamaal was admitted as part of the NCCU Institute of Museum and Library Services Diversity Scholar Program, which is a program to recruit minority students into the library field.

North Regional Branch Manager Mary Campbell attended the Lifelong Access Libraries Leadership Institute sponsored by the Americans for Libraries Council in conjunction with the UNC Institute on Aging and UNC School of Information and Library Science.

Megan Smith, Headquarters Youth Services Manager, attended both the ALA Mid-Winter and the ALA Annual Meetings as a member of the 2008 Caldecott Award Committee. In conjunction with her committee work, she conducted 61 "Caldecott Kids" book talks with area elementary schools to introduce this year's Caldecott-nominated books to children and to obtain their opinions about the books.

County Funding Allows for Needed Replacement of Some Library Computers

Over 100 of the library's older computers (1/4 of the library's inventory) were replaced with new Dell 745 Optiplex 745 computers. Service point computers and staff computers were replaced, refurbished, or redistributed thanks to funds in the FY08 budget awarded by the County Commissioners.

Teen Program at Headquarters Attracts More Than 3,000

Library staff and community volunteers led by Missy Lang, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator; Katharine Rankin, Information Services Library Associate at the North Regional Branch Library; and Chad Matich, President the East Coast Anime Society, hosted Librari-con, an all-day event at the Headquarters Library featuring 21 programs about gaming, manga and anime. Many participants came dressed in costume.

Web Site Receives a Make-Over

Logan Abbitt, Electronic Resources Librarian, and the library Web advisory group—The Dream Team—completed a revision of the library's Web site. Over 100 Web pages were either edited or created for this project.

Staff Implement Roving Reference Model

Roving reference is a service model that involves scheduling Information Services staff to actively approach customers browsing in the collection to offer help in addition to sitting at centralized reference desks waiting for customers to ask for assistance.

The roving or “proactive” reference model was implemented at all CCPL&IC locations beginning in August 2007.

The idea for the service is to move staff out from behind the service desk in order to find our customers when they are at their “point of puzzlement” and the service brings staff directly to them. It also provides opportunities for staff to sell library services proactively.

Staff set the roving period service hours between 2 or 3 pm until 6 or 7 pm, when libraries are typically busiest.

Staff Present at Library Conference

East Regional Branch Library Manager Judy Brown and Assistant Youth Services Coordinator Missy Lang presented a pre-conference session entitled *Teen Tech @ CCPL & IC* at the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Biennial Conference. They shared with participants East Regional's gaming programs and teen blog.

At the same conference, Nora Armstrong and Sarah Sewell, Librarian IIs in Reference & Information Services at Headquarters, presented a program, *From Unplugged to Plugged*, which focused on the change from print to electronic reference sources.

Speaker Event a Success

The Friends of the Library's Annual Library Endowment Trust Benefit drew a packed house at the Cape Fear Regional Theatre. John Dau, author of *God Grew Tired of Us*, shared his story of fleeing war-ravaged Sudan and living in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya before moving to the United States.

United Way Library Campaign

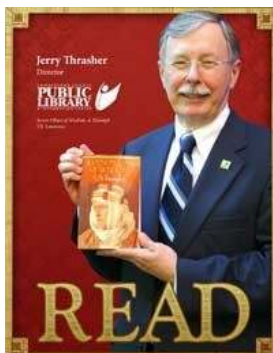
Led by Kenneth Young, Computing Consultant III, the library's 2007 United Way campaign raised approximately \$7,500, surpassing all previous library records.

New Courier Truck Acquired

A new courier truck arrived replacing an aging, prone-to-breakdowns vehicle. The new truck is more versatile with fold up shelves, tie knots along the sides for securing items, and a lift which tucks under the truck. A custom "wrap" was applied with the word "Library" in large red letters, which will make this mobile billboard easily recognizable.

Retiring Director Honored

Staff honored Jerry Thrasher, Director, on December 7, 2007 at the regularly scheduled Staff Development Day. The agenda began as usual with director's remarks, Exceptional Employee Awards, acknowledgement of new staff, and acknowledgement of retired and retiring staff. The agenda then diverted to a celebration of 28 years of great leadership with a PowerPoint of Jerry's history and accomplishments at CCPL&IC, poetry, skits and gifts. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Library.



The City of Fayetteville proclaimed December 15 as Jerry Thrasher Day to honor the retiring director. Posters were displayed at all library locations announcing the special recognition.

That evening, a successful and well-attended reception was held for retiring director Thrasher in the Pate Room of the Headquarters Library. The event was planned and sponsored by a joint committee of Friends, Trustees and staff. Speakers for the

program portion of the evening were introduced by Trustee Chair Robbin Tatum. Scheduled speakers included Mary Lynn Jordan, a former Trustee of the Library Board; Breeden Blackwell, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Liaison to the Library Board; David Paynter, Director of the New Hanover County Public Library; and Terri Union, former Trustee of the Library Board. Each presented brief remarks expounding upon and celebrating Jerry's contributions to this library, to libraries in general, and to the community. North Carolina's Department of Cultural Resources Staci Meyer, Chief Deputy Secretary, Arts and Libraries (standing in for Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources), presented a Resolution honoring Jerry on behalf of Governor Easley.

State Representatives Margaret Dickson and Rick Glazier also spoke to the assembled group. Lastly, Jerry's sons honored their father with some brief, humorous and moving remarks.

In his address to the gathering, Jerry expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for the support of the community, friends and family. Robbin Tatum closed the program portion of the evening with a warm expression of gratitude for Jerry's service.