

Black History Month Programs

by Anne H. Coleman

The Mary Livermore Library celebrated Black History Month in 2008 with several exciting events.

The celebration began February 4 with a series of activities commemorating the 19th National African American Read-In. The Read-In is cosponsored nationally by The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the Black Caucus of NCTE. The overall goal of the Read-In is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities. Locally, Read-In activities at UNC Pembroke were cosponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs (OMMA), and the Center for Leadership and Service's First Book Program.

During the February 4th day of celebration, three events were held on the UNCP campus. The day began with a Children's Hour where African American stories were read to 26 three- and four-year-old youngsters from the Shining Stars Preschool and Daycare. **Hannah Simpson**, Vice President, UNCP SGA; **Karen Fritts**, Government Documents/Development Librarian, Mary Livermore Library; and **Lucille Locklear**, Branch Manager, New Century Bank, read to the children. **Gwendolyn Locklear**, Executive Assistant, Mary Livermore Library, sang to the group. Each of the children was given an African American children's book that had been donated by UNCP's First Book Program.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion of the book *Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors* by Drs. Bill Cosby and Alvin Poussaint was held in the University's student center. Faculty, staff, and students shared their insights on the book. They discussed at great length the broad implications of the book and the need for each individual to commit to helping someone else, especially the children and young people of our nation.

In the evening, an oral readings program was held in the Library. A diverse group of people, including **Jessica Jacobs**, Miss North Carolina 2007; **Jamee Hunt**, Miss UNCP 2008; and **Trin-A-Thoughtz**, North Carolina NAACP House Poet, gathered to deliver spirited and inspiring readings of African American literature.

On the evening of February 11, the Library hosted a presentation by **Dr. Barbara Trepagnier**, a sociology professor from Texas State University and author of *Silent Racism: How Well-Meaning White People Perpetuate the Racial Divide*. Dr. Trepagnier also discussed her book at an afternoon presentation in the student center. Dr. Trepagnier's appearance at UNCP was cosponsored by the Mary Livermore Library and OMMA.

On February 19, the Library hosted a program featuring **Dr. Melton McLaurin**, author of *The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*. Dr. McLaurin discussed his research and book on this historic North Carolina military installation. His book and documentary film tell the story of the African American Marines who integrated the last all-white branch of the U.S. military in 1942.



Robert Canida, Anne Coleman, Jamee Hunt, Jessica Jacobs, Vivian Oxendine, Dr. Jane Haladay, Dr. Elinor Foster, Trin-A-Thoughtz, Tho Vo, Pia Jessup, Sherwin Rice, and Jamal Porter were participants in an evening program in the Mary Livermore Library on February 4. Photo provided by Robert Canida.

On February 21, the Library and OMMA cohosted a second Children's Hour. Volunteers read African American stories to a group of three- and four-year-old children from the Greengrove Headstart Program in Fairmont. Readers for this event were **Jamee Hunt**, Miss UNCP 2008; **Jamie Goins**, YIELD Project Director, Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center; **Hannah Simpson**, Vice President, UNCP SGA; **Derving Rios**, UNCP student; and **Robert Canida**, Director of OMMA. The youngsters particularly enjoyed having Mr. Rios read them a story in Spanish about a rainbow-colored world and translating the Spanish words for them. **Preston Siler**, also a UNCP student, led the students in some of their favorite songs like "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." Mr. Canida and **Dr. Elinor Foster**, Dean of Library Services, welcomed the youngsters and their teachers to the UNCP campus.

The programs celebrating Black History Month were well-attended and audience participation was spirited and thought-provoking. Everyone involved, presenters and attendees, expressed their appreciation of the activities and are looking forward to next year's programs. Plans are already underway to repeat some of the events, like the National African American Read-In, and to line up equally exciting presenters for Black History Month in 2009.



The children from the Shining Stars Pre-school show off their books.
Photo provided by Robert Canida.



Dr. Melton McLaurin autographs his book after his discussion on the Montford Point Marines.



Book discussion panel participants were from left to right: Dr. Elinor Foster, Jamal Porter, Robyn Deemer, Sailaja (Sally) Vallabha, Dr. Scott Hicks. Photo provided by Robert Canida.

It's That Time of Year Again! The Library's Annual Book Sale

As part of the celebration for National Library Week we will, once again, be holding our annual book sale. The sale will be held April 14-18, 2008 on the second floor in the Library. The hours for the sale will be as follows: April 14-15 (Monday and Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and April 16-18 (Wednesday – Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pricing will be \$1.00 for hardbacks and non-print items, \$0.50 for paperbacks, and \$0.25 for magazines. In addition, some select items will have special pricing. We encourage everyone to come early to get the best selection. Please keep in mind that we reserve the first day of the sale for FOL members.