Friends of the Library Update

by Anne H. Coleman and Susan F. Whitt

The Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is an organization committed to sponsoring educational and cultural activities for our community. It has actively sponsored these programs during the fall semester.

The first program on October 27, 2005 was held at the Sampson-Livermore Library and featured Dr. Melton A. McLaurin, UNC Wilmington Randall Library Fellow and Professor Emeritus of History, who spoke on the topic "The North Carolina State Fair: The State's Oldest and Biggest Annual Party." Dr. McLaurin discussed the history of the State Fair. A question-and-answer session and reception followed Dr. McLaurin's comments. Dr. McLaurin has done extensive research on the North Carolina State Fair and presented an extremely well researched and interesting history of the founding and progression of this institution. Its importance to the economic and cultural history of the people of North Carolina was well documented. Anyone who has an interest in North Carolina history will want to read Dr. McLaurin's book The North Carolina State Fair: The First 150 Years, which is available for loan from the collection of the Sampson-Livermore Library.

On November 16, 2005, the Friends presented a program highlighting recent works published by faculty and staff of the UNCP Art Department. Four members of the department were featured.

Dr. Ann Horton-Lopez, Associate Professor, discussed her book, Ralph Steeds: An Impression of an American Artist. Ralph Steeds, a colleague of Dr. Horton-Lopez, is a Red Springs artist who specializes in printmaking and lithography. His work is on display in private collections and museums around the world.

Dr. Tula Lightfoot, Associate Professor, discussed her book, Spirit of America: Patriotic Monologues and Speeches for Middle and High School Students. Dr. Lightfoot has compiled speeches from several well known historical figures such as John Paul Jones, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln as well as speeches from some less well known figures such as Phyllis Wheatley, Sarah Joseph Hale, and Geronimo. Dr. Lightfoot seeks to expose American youth to the diverse faces of American patriotism.

See Friends of the Library - Continued on page 8
Ralph Steeds, Professor, discussed his new book, *A Traveling Circus: Poems*. This book is a collaborative venture between Mr. Steeds and poet Gar Bethel. For this book, Mr. Steeds produced six original, hand-pulled lithographs to accompany Mr. Bethel’s poems. Mr. Steeds does not consider his lithographs illustrations, but parallel expressions of the poetry.

Blake Tyner, Administrative Secretary and recent UNCP graduate, discussed his latest book, *Robeson County in Vintage Postcards*. The book contains historical post cards that Mr. Tyner has collected over the years and presents a historical picture of Robeson County. This is Mr. Tyner’s second book on the history of Robeson County.

All of the authors participated in a question-and-answer session after their presentations and signed copies of their books.

On November 30, 2005, the Friends of the Library presented a second program that highlighted two additional UNCP faculty members: Dr. Richard Kania, a professor in the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department, and Dr. Tom Ross, a professor in the Geology and Geography Department. The program was held in the main reading room of the Sampson-Livermore Library. The two professors discussed their most recent scholarly endeavors. Dr. Kania talked about his new book, *The 1605 Waymouth Expedition to the Coast of Maine: An Assessment of the Rosier Text*. Dr. Ross discussed the third edition of his atlas, *One Land, Three Peoples: A Geography of Robeson County, North Carolina*. A reception and book signing opportunities followed the remarks from Dr. Kania and Dr. Ross.

The Friends are planning for their 2006 benefit, “A Springtime Showcase @the Library.” Featured performers will be Jessica Ortiz-Carrero, Miss UNCP 2004, and Morgan Hunt, Miss UNCP 2005. More information on this benefit will be in the next issue of *Library Lines*. Be sure to watch for further information and mark your calendar for April 21, 2006. If tickets go as quickly as they did for our last benefit, you will want to be sure to watch for the first notice of ticket sales. Proceeds raised from the benefit go to support the Friends of the Library initiatives such as funding three scholarships established to assist students at UNCP, funding the McNaughton leasing program for popular reading materials and movies on DVD, and supporting projects in the Library’s archives and special collections areas. To find out more about our Friends group and the programs it sponsors or to join this very worthwhile organization, call the Library at 910.521.6212 or go to the Library’s webpage at http://www.uncp.edu/library/friends/.