On February 3, 2009, the Mary Livermore Library kicked off its celebration of Black History Month with a presentation by Mama Dip (Mildred Council), the owner of a well-known restaurant in Chapel Hill that specializes in what Mama Dip calls “country cooking.”

Mama Dip, in a low-key, intimate conversation with her audience, shared her recollections of starting the restaurant with very little money, but with lots of support from her family and business colleagues. In fact, the very first meal she served at the restaurant was actually food she had purchased to cook lunch for her children whom she had brought to the restaurant with her. However, when customers showed up wanting to purchase meals, she sold them her family’s home-cooked food and then bought more meat and vegetables to cook for her family and other customers. At the end of the day, she was astonished at the amount of money her simple, country food had brought in. Her restaurant continued to grow from this impromptu, hurriedly prepared meal to being a landmark establishment in Chapel Hill.

Mama Dip was accompanied by her daughter, Spring Council, who shared her memories of a loving mother who still managed to give her children lots of attention, in spite of her demanding schedule at the restaurant. Several of Mama Dip’s children now work at the restaurant with her.

The only thing missing from this presentation was that Mama Dip did not get an opportunity to prepare one of her signature dishes for the audience.

On February 11, the Library continued its celebration of Black History Month by cosponsoring a series of events commemorating the 20th National African American Read-In (AARI). The annual Read-In activities are designed to promote literacy among African Americans. The UNCP African American Read-In events this year were cosponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, the School of Education, the Office of Academic Affairs, and FirstBook.

The first AARI event, held on February 11, featured an African storyteller, Obakunle Akinlana. Mr. Akinlana, accompanied by a talented dancer, shared traditional African folktales and history, using drums, shakers, and other traditional African musical instruments. The audience particularly enjoyed the parts of the program that allowed them to participate. At one point, Mr. Akinlana robbed two audience members in traditional African garments as he taught the audience Yoruba, a Nigerian language, words for each piece of clothing. Later in the program, some members of the audience formed an African band while the remaining audience members became African dancers. The music and the dancing may not have been the best, but the enthusiasm and enjoyment were at the top of the chart.

Obakunle Akinlana dresses audience member Tiffany Taylor

The only thing missing from this presentation was that Mama Dip did not get an opportunity to prepare one of her signature dishes for the audience.

On February 11, the Library continued its celebration of Black History Month by cosponsoring a series of events commemorating the 20th National African American Read-In (AARI). The annual Read-In activities are designed to promote literacy among African Americans. The UNCP African American Read-In events this year were cosponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, the School of Education, the Office of Academic Affairs, and FirstBook.

The first AARI event, held on February 11, featured an African storyteller, Obakunle Akinlana. Mr. Akinlana, accompanied by a talented dancer, shared traditional African folktales and history, using drums, shakers, and other traditional African musical instruments. The audience particularly enjoyed the parts of the program that allowed them to participate. At one point, Mr. Akinlana robbed two audience members in traditional African garments as he taught the audience Yoruba, a Nigerian language, words for each piece of clothing. Later in the program, some members of the audience formed an African band while the remaining audience members became African dancers. The music and the dancing may not have been the best, but the enthusiasm and enjoyment were at the top of the chart.

Obakunle Akinlana dresses audience member Tiffany Taylor

continued from page 5

continued from page 8

position. Nickie also said that she hopes to enter a graduate program in the fall.

Anthony Holderied and Rachel Holderied, Electronic Resources/Media Catalog Librarian, welcomed Avery Jordan Holderied to the family on January 28, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 24.4 inches in length at birth. Anthony has been with the Mary Livermore Library for three years and is in charge of instruction. Rachel joined the library staff as a cataloger in November 2008.

Avery makes her first appearance at Mary Livermore Library, with mom and dad, for a baby shower held in her honor on March 3, 2009.
Kudos and Happenings

by Michael Alewine

Employees of the Mary Livermore Library have continued a tradition of active engagement in scholarly pursuits by attending professional conferences, contributing articles to peer-reviewed journals, and making presentations on a variety of library or technology-related topics.

Michael Alewine, Outreach/Distance Education Librarian, and Robert Arndt, Reference/Instructional Services Librarian, presented "Using a Variety of Technologies to Provide Library Services for Distance Education Students" at the UNC Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference held March 17-19. The presentation was made available as a Flash Video and discussed the use of software applications, such as RefWorks, or specific pieces of application functionality, such as the signatures feature in Microsoft Outlook, that are employed to provide research assistance to students involved with UNCP's off-campus and online programs.

Michael Alewine and Anthony Holderied, Instructional Services/Reference Librarian, presented "Engaging Learners Using Interactive Technology in the Classroom" on March 28 at the Digital Content Consortium, which was sponsored by The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Digital Academy. The presentation covered the pedagogical uses of interactive whiteboards, student response systems, and wireless slates in the classroom.

Anthony Holderied's article, "Library Assessment from a Fresh Perspective" was published in the January 2009 issue of Library Connect Newsletter [http://libraryconnect.elsevier.com/lor/0701lor/070110.html]. The article discusses what "Next Gen" librarians have to offer beyond an affinity for technology, and specifically addresses Anthony's assessment activities at Mary Livermore Library in relation to the University's upcoming SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) reaffirmation of accreditation process.

Anthony's recent scholarship also includes "Institutional Repositories Provide Open Access to Scholarly Communication," published in the March 2009 issue of Associates: The Electronic Support Staff Journal [http://associates.ucr.edu/journal/?page_id=314]. This article provides an overview of institutional repositories (IRs) and the benefits of open access to faculty and student scholarship. Anthony also discusses the evolution of NC DOCKS, which is a consortial institutional repository initiative involving UNCP, Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Anthony also discusses issues related to creating an institutional repository, such as copyright, costs, and marketing.

Nickie Blanton, former University Library Technician for Media Cataloging, has joined the administrative staff at the Robeson Community College (RCC) Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that "receives, holds, invests, and disburses funds for the purpose of providing scholarships to students," according to the website. Nickie worked at UNCP for almost nine years. In 1999, Nickie worked on contract for Government Documents and Special Collections areas of library service. From August 2000 until the end of September 2006, she was the Government Documents Library Assistant. In October of 2006, she became the University Library Technician for Media Cataloging.

When summing up her experience, Nickie stated "My years at UNCP were formative. I gained skills - both occupational and personal - that I will always use. While there, I learned the value of government documents, came to appreciate the beauty of details in cataloging, learned how to help plan and set up a benefit, graduated from college, developed friendships I hope will last a lifetime, and made memories I'll always treasure."

Nickie said that her new job is very exciting and her duties are quite different from those in the Library. She said that she enjoys meeting new people and is thriving with the challenges that she has faced in her new role.

The second AARI program, held on February 13, was a Children's Hour. During this event, African American children's stories were read to a group of youngsters from the Shining Stars Preschool and Daycare of Pembroke and two groups of youngsters from the Greengrove Headstart Program in Fairmont. The readers for the event were UNCP students from Dr. Swannee Dickson's elementary education class.

The third event in the AARI series, held in the Library on February 17, was an oral readings program. Participants in this program included Katy Locklear, Miss UNCP 2009; Nefertiti Byrd, Miss Black North Carolina USA 2009; Amanda McCoy, Miss Teen Essence USA of Wake County; UNCP students and faculty; and Sherwin Rice, the Vice President of the North Carolina Library Association. They all read favorite poems, passages, and excerpts from African-American-authored literature.

The fourth, and final, event of the African American Read-In series was a book discussion of Cornel West's latest book, Hope on a Tightrope: Words and Wisdom. The discussion was led by Dr. Scott Hicks, an associate professor in the UNCP English Department. Dr. Hicks was joined by five UNCP panelists: Sally Vallabha, a faculty member in the Chemistry Department; Dr. Frankie Powell, an associate professor in the School of Education; Jamel Porter, Vice President of the Student Government Association; Quinn Davis, President of the African American Student Organization; and Carine Francois, President of the UNCP Chapter of The National Council of Negro Women. After a lively and insightful discussion of various aspects of the book, Trim-A-Thoughts (Petrina Bryant), a NAACP House Poet, ended the program with one of her original poems, The Village.

All of the Black History Month activities were well attended; many community supporters and students came to the events and enjoyed themselves. Audience participation this year was phenomenal, particularly at the African storyteller event. The presenters and topics at the Library's Black History Month activities just keep getting better; the cosponsors are already looking forward to planning even more exciting and thought-provoking events for next year.

Top Left to Right: James Hampton, Nefertiti Byrd, Amanda McCoy, Katy Locklear, Gwen McKiver, Anne Coleman and Robert Canida
Bottom Left to Right: Jamel Porter, Sherwin Rice, Vivette Jeffries-Logan, Dr. Frankie Powell, and Dr. Betty Brown

continued from page 4