

Joe Deese

D.G. Martin

INSIDE UNC-TV'S
NORTH CAROLINA BOOKWATCH

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

Raleigh, North Carolina • 2020

D.G. Martin
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Together with tributes to D.G. Martin

2020

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY
Raleigh, North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS

Number 61

Lynn Roundtree, Editor

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Introduction

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

P. O. Box 20632 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27619 • Telephone: 919-230-1524
www.ncsociety.org

Chartered on 11 September 1975 as a private nonprofit corporation under provisions of Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the North Caroliniana Society is dedicated to the promotion of increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's heritage through the encouragement of scholarly research and writing in and teaching of state and local history and literature; publication of documentary materials, including the numbered, limited-edition *North Caroliniana Society Imprints* (see a list included in this publication) and *North Caroliniana Society Keepsakes*; sponsorship of professional and lay conferences, seminars, lectures, and exhibitions; commemoration of historic events, including sponsorship of markers and plaques; and through assistance to the North Carolina Collection of UNC-Chapel Hill and other cultural organizations with kindred objectives. The Society's motto is "Substance, Not Show."

Founded by H.G. Jones and incorporated by Jones, William S. Powell, and Louis M. Connor Jr., who soon were joined by a distinguished group of North Carolinians, the Society was limited to a hundred members for the first decade. It elects from time to time additional individuals meeting its strict criterion of "adjudged performance" in service to their state's culture—i.e., those who have demonstrated a continuing interest in and support of the historical, literary, and cultural heritage of North Carolina. Presently, the Society has 250 members.

The Society, a tax-exempt organization under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, expects continued service from its members, and for its programs it depends upon the contributions, bequests, and devises of its members and friends. Its IRS Tax ID number is 56-1119848.

In addition to its continued support of the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, the Society administers a fund, given in 1987 by the Research Triangle Foundation in honor of its retiring board chairman and the Society's longtime president, from which more than 400 Archie K. Davis Fellowships have been awarded for research in North Carolina's historical and cultural resources. N.C. History Day and the North Carolina Historical Review, both administered through the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, receive continued support from the Society.

In 2016, committed to supporting our state's K-12 teachers, the Society and the Carolina K-12 Fund of Carolina Public Humanities developed the William

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Friday Teacher Education Initiative, with the goal of equally educating and appreciating our state's hard working educators through free, quality professional development events.

The Society also sponsors the North Caroliniana Book Award, recognizing a book that best captures the essence of North Carolina; the William Stevens Powell Award to a senior student who has contributed most to an understanding of the history and traditions of the The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the H.G. Jones North Carolina History Prizes for winners in the National History Day competition.

A highlight of the Society's year is the presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Award to an individual or organization for long and distinguished service in the encouragement, production, enhancement, promotion, and preservation of North Carolina's heritage. (See a *list of Award recipients on the next page.*)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2019-2020

- James W. Clark Jr., *President*
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- Bland Simpson, *Vice President*
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- *Directors ex officio:* Kevin G. Cherry, Deputy Secretary, Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Robert G. Anthony Jr., Curator, North Carolina Collection

- *Presidents emeriti:* William S. Powell (1919-2015), Archie K. Davis (1911-1998), William C. Friday (1920-2012), and Willis P. Whichard

- *Secretary-Treasurer emeritus:* H.G. Jones (1924-2018)

- *Director emeritus:* Nancy Cobb Lilly



ABOVE: The original cup is in the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

1978 — Paul Green	1994 — North Carolina Collection
1979 — Albert Coates	1995 — J. Carlyle Sitterson
1980 — Sam J. Ervin Jr.	1995 — LeRoy T. Walker
1981 — Sam Ragan	1996 — Hugh MacRae Morton
1982 — Gertrude Sprague Carraway	1997 — John L. Sanders
1983 — John Fries Blair	1998 — Doris Waugh Betts
1984 — William C. & Ida H. Friday	1999 — Reynolds Price
1985 — William S. Powell	2000 — Richard H. Jenrette
1986 — Mary D.B.T. & James H. Semans	2001 — Wilma Dykeman
1987 — David Stick	2002 — Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
1988 — William McWhorter Cochrane	2003 — Maxine Swalin
1989 — Emma Neal Morrison	2004 — Elizabeth Vann Moore
1990 — Burke Davis	2004 — W. Trent Ragland Jr.
1991 — Lawrence F. London	2005 — W. Dallas Herring
1992 — Frank Hawkins Kenan	2005 — John Hope Franklin
1993 — Charles Kurlalt	2006 — Betty Ray McCain
1994 — H.G. Jones	2006 — Joseph F. Steelman
1994 — Archie K. Davis	2007 — William B. Aycock

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2007 — Fred Chappell
 2008 — Henry E. & Shirley T. Frye
 2008 — Robert & Jessie Rae Scott
 2009 — James E. Holshouser Jr.
 2010 — Bland Simpson
 2011 — Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
 2012 — Lee Smith
 2013 — Thomas W. Lambeth
 2014 — Myrick Howard
 2015 — Herb Jackson
 2016 — Willis P. Whichard
 2017 — H. David Bruton
 2018 — Catherine Ward Bishir
 2019 — Alice & Jerry Cotten
 2020 — D.G. Martin

NORTH CAROLINIANA IMPRINTS, NUMBERS 1 - 61 (1978 - 2020)

- No. 1.** *An Evening at Monticello: An Essay in Reflection* (1978) by Edwin M. Gill
- No. 2.** *The Paul Green I Know* (1978) by Elizabeth Lay Green
- No. 3.** *The Albert Coates I Know* (1979) by Gladys Hall Coates
- No. 4.** *The Sam Ervin I Know* (1980) by Jean Conyers Ervin
- No. 5.** *Sam Ragan* (1981) by Neil Morgan
- No. 6.** *Thomas Wolfe of North Carolina* (1982) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 7.** *Gertrude Sprague Carraway* (1982) by Sam Ragan
- No. 8.** *John Fries Blair* (1983) by Margaret Blair McCuiston
- No. 9.** *William Clyde Friday and Ida Howell Friday* (1984) by Georgia Carroll Kyser and William Brantley Aycock
- No. 10.** *William S. Powell, Historian* (1985) by David Stick and William C. Friday

- No. 11.** *"Gallantry Unsurpassed"* (1985) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 12.** *Mary and Jim Semans, North Carolinians* (1986) by W. Kenneth Goodson
- No. 13.** *The High Water Mark* (1986) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 14.** *Raleigh and Quinn: The Explorer and His Boswell* (1987) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 15.** *A Half Century in Coastal History* (1987) by David Stick
- No. 16.** *Thomas Wolfe at Eighty-seven* (1988) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 17.** *A Third of a Century in Senate Cloakrooms* (1988) by William McWhorter Cochrane
- No. 18.** *The Emma Neal Morrison I Know* (1989) by Ida Howell Friday
- No. 19.** *Thomas Wolfe's Composition Books* (1990) edited by Alice R. Cotten
- No. 20.** *My Father, Burke Davis* (1990) by Angela Davis-Gardner
- No. 21.** *A Half Century with Rare Books* (1991) by Lawrence F. London
- No. 22.** *Frank H. Kenan: An Appreciation* (1992) edited by Archie K. Davis
- No. 23.** *Growing Up in North Carolina*, by Charles Kurlalt, and *The Uncommon Laureate*, by Wallace H. Kurlalt (1993)
- No. 24.** *Chancellors Extraordinary: J. Carlyle Sitterson and LeRoy T. Walker* (1995) by William C. Friday and Willis P. Whichard
- No. 25.** *Historical Consciousness in the Early Republic* (1995) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 26.** *Sixty Years with a Camera* (1996) by Hugh M. Morton
- No. 27.** *William Gaston as a Public Man* (1997) by John L. Sanders
- No. 28.** *William P. Cumming and the Study of Cartography* (1998) edited by Robert Cumming

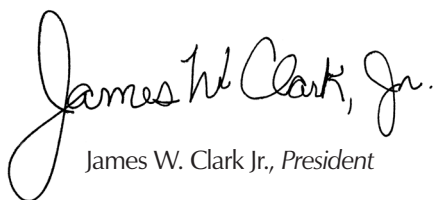
- No. 29.** *My Love Affair with Carolina* (1998) by Doris Waugh Betts
- No. 30.** *A Single but Huge Distinction* (1999) by Reynolds Price
- No. 31.** *Richard Jenrette's Adventures in Historic Preservation* (2000) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 32.** *Sketches in North Carolina USA 1872 to 1878* (2001) by Mortimer O. Heath; edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 33.** *Roots and Branches* (2001) by Wilma Dykeman
- No. 34.** *Glimmers in the Gloaming* (2002) by Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
- No. 35.** *Coming of Age in North Carolina's Fifth Century*, by Maxine Swalin and *The North Carolina Symphony*, by John L. Humber (2003)
- No. 36.** *Reflections* (2004) by W. Trent Ragland Jr.
- No. 37.** *Photographers in North Carolina: The First Century, 1842-1941* (2004) Essays by Stephen E. Massengill, H.G. Jones, Jesse R. Lankford
- No. 38.** *North Carolina Conundrum* (2005) by John Hope Franklin
- No. 39.** *Poetical Geography of North Carolina* (1887; 2006) by Needham Bryan Cobb
- No. 40.** *The Goodliest Land* (2006) by Betty Ray McCain
- No. 41.** *Hayes: The Plantation, Its People, and Their Papers* (2007) by John G. Zehmer Jr.
- No. 42.** *Center of the Universe* (2007) by Fred Chappell
- No. 43.** *William B. Aycock: Our Champion* (2007) by Judith W. Wegner
- No. 44.** *Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina* (2008) by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 45.** *Robert Scott and the Preservation of North Carolina History* (2009) by H.G. Jones
- No. 46.** *A Historic Occasion* (2009) by Shirley Taylor Frye and Henry E. Frye
- No. 47.** *Surprise of the Century* (2009) by James E. Holshouser Jr.
- No. 48.** *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (2010) edited by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 49.** *The Grandfathers* (2010) by Bland Simpson
- No. 50.** *A Resumé of Two Historic Adventures* (2011) by Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
- No. 51.** *Faces and Places of My Heart* (2012) by Lee Smith
- No. 52.** *A Love Affair with an Entire State* (2013) by Thomas W. Lambeth
- No. 53.** *Why Historic Preservation Matters* (2014) by Myrick Howard
- No. 54.** *A Place to Dig* (2015) by Herb Jackson
- No. 55.** *David Lowry Swain and the University of North Carolina, 1835-1868* (2016) by Willis P. Whichard
- No. 56.** *A North Carolina Country Boy* (2017) by H. David Bruton
- No. 57.** *Religious Traditions of North Carolina: Histories, Tenets, and Leaders* (2018) edited by Glenn Jonas
- No. 58.** *Reborn Digital* (2018) by Catherine Ward Bishir
- No. 59.** *Camp Bryan and a Tale of Two Letters* (2019) by Jerry Cotten, and *Going Home Again: The Return of Thomas Wolfe* (2019) by Alice Cotten
- No. 60.** *Jim Crow in North Carolina: The Legislative Program from 1865 to 1920* (2020) by Richard Paschal
- No. 61.** *Inside UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch* (2020) by D.G. Martin

Opening Remarks

The North Caroliniana Society, during much of 2020, has been operating under the restrictions and constraints of the pandemic known as COVID-19. We have held no annual membership meeting. Accordingly, this 2020 Imprint has been created without the usual photographs and other presentational features.

On October 20, 2020, via Zoom, we held an expanded Society Board of Directors meeting to which D.G. Martin, the 2020 award winner, and Howard Covington, the recipient of the 2019 book award, were invited.

Thank you for your support of the Society throughout this unusual year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Clark, Jr." in a cursive script.

James W. Clark Jr., *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Copie Cain" in a cursive script.

Copie Cain, *Executive Director*

D.G. Martin

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD 2020



ABOVE from left: Grier, Louise, and Sara Martin; DG and Harriet Martin with David Bryan in between them; Maggie, Cotton, May, and Jake Bryan

As host of UNC-TV's *North Carolina Bookwatch* for 20 years, D.G. Martin has recorded more than 400 interviews with authors of North Carolina-related books. Since 1985 he has written a weekly newspaper column that features books, politics, and related topics and is distributed throughout the state.

Although he was born in Atlanta and went to grammar school in Bristol, Tennessee, Martin grew up in Davidson, North Carolina, where his father was college president (1958-68). Martin graduated from North Mecklenburg High School and Davidson College, where he captained Lefty Driesell's first winning college basketball team. After serving in the Army's Special Forces, he graduated from Yale Law School and practiced law in Charlotte for 20 years. He was an elder and Sunday School teacher at Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church and served as moderator of Mecklenburg Presbytery and the Presbyterian Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

After losing two close campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 and 1986, he joined the University of North Carolina system, serving first as Secretary of the University and then as Vice President for Public Affairs and

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chief legislative liaison. In 1997, he left this position to run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate.

Since that time he has served in interim leadership positions at UNC-Pembroke, North Carolina Central University, the Trust for Public Land, the Triangle Land Conservancy, North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and as President of the William R. Kenan Jr. Fund.

When Martin began his work with the water quality trust, Jack Betts wrote a column in the *Charlotte Observer* headlined, "In trouble? Dial 1-800-D.G. Martin." In his piece, Betts wrote: "*Martin was a wise choice: he's a steady hand with a devotion to North Carolina and a fine sense of judgment about what's best for the state.*"

D.G. Martin is a fan of country cooking, barbecue, and the camaraderie found in local eateries. In 2016 UNC Press published his book, *North Carolina's Roadside Eateries: The Traveler's Guide to Local Restaurants, Diners, and Barbecue Joints*, with a revised edition planned for later this year.

Martin is married to the former Harriet Howard Wall. While a native of Conway, South Carolina, Harriet Wall's family has deep roots in Anson and Catawba counties. They met on a blind date thanks to family connections while Harriet was at Sweet Briar College. Martin credits their ongoing courtship to his immediate alliance with Harriet's grandmother, a staunch political activist from Lilesville, North Carolina, Annie Lee Shuford Wall.

They have two children and four grandchildren. Their son, Grier Martin, serves in the North Carolina House of Representatives, while their daughter, May Bryan, serves as president of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation.



ABOVE: John Grisham discusses *The Guardians* on a Bookwatch program recorded at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill.

Inside UNC-TV'S North Carolina *Bookwatch*

D.G. MARTIN

PART I

Why write an informal history that takes an inside look at *North Carolina Bookwatch*, North Carolina Public Media's program that features North Carolina books and authors? That is a question I should answer before I ask you to read the following.

As a statewide television program featuring and promoting North Carolina books and authors, *Bookwatch*, like the North Caroliniana Society, is "dedicated to the promotion and increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's heritage."

Because of the shared interests of the Society and *Bookwatch* it is appropriate to acquaint members and friends of the Society with the television program. They may be curious about the program. How and why did it get started? What does it do? How are authors and books selected? Who watches? What is the program's future given the rapid and dramatic changes in the ways we inform and entertain each other?

In this presentation I try to answer some of these questions and leave a record of how *Bookwatch* has served North Carolina's writing and reading communities, and I suggest how it can continue to be of use even as its broadcast television base changes.

HOW THE PROGRAM GOT STARTED

The program began in the summer of 1997. Robin Minietta, a senior staff person at University of North Carolina Television or "UNC-TV" (the forerunner of today's North Carolina Public Media), was the host and organizer.

To explain why the program began, I had always said that UNC President William Friday was responsible. He was the host of *North Carolina People*, UNC-TV's longest-running program. For more than 40 years he interviewed over a thousand of the state's best writers, educators, athletes, politicians, and ordinary people he found to be special. He had a problem. He was overwhelmed by

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requests from authors who wanted to talk about their books on *North Carolina People*. Therefore, he suggested that there be a book program to take care of those people.

When I shared these thoughts with Tom Howe, UNC-TV's general manager when *Bookwatch* began, he responded: *"Well, sort of. My memory is that I thought, and more importantly Robin thought, that a book program would be good to have on our air. I think Gail Zimmerman [Tom's chief deputy] was also anxious to have a book program. Given her love of books, she did not think we had enough authors in our schedule. It was critical that Robin was enthusiastic about it because of the tremendous workload of reading the books for the interviews."*

"President Friday was always touchy about anyone starting a one-on-one interview program that would compete with North Carolina People," Howe continued, "but when I talked to him about a book program specifically he was surprisingly positive about one being started. He hated to say no to anyone who wanted to be on his show, and he had to say no to a lot of authors who were constantly after him to be on his show to promote their books."

FIRST AND SECOND SEASONS (1997-1998)

Robin Minietta recruited a distinguished group of thirteen guest authors for the first season of thirteen programs in 1997: Lee Smith, Peter Applebome, Howard Owen, Fred Chappell, C. Eric Lincoln, Marly Youmans, Robert Inman, Frye Gaillard, Rafael Campo, Tim McLaurin, Dan Gearino, Doris Betts, and Clyde Edgerton.

For the 1998 season, Robin hosted Reynolds Price, Lucy Corin, Michael Chitwood, Allan Gurganus, Linda Beatrice Brown, Melissa Malouf, Dale Neal, Denise Giardina, Wendy Brenner, Sarah Dessen, June Spence, and Kaye Gibbons.

Almost all of these authors were fiction writers.

Robin Minietta was a charming and popular interviewer. The program was off to a good start. But there was a problem. Robin's husband's job took the couple to Hong Kong after the 1998 *Bookwatch* season. There was no season of the program in 1999.

After Robin's departure, Howe and Zimmerman decided to continue the program and at some point decided to discuss the possibility of my hosting a series of the program. I was available, having retired from my position as Vice President for Public Affairs of the UNC system, and then losing a race for the U.S. Senate in the 1998 Democratic primary.

Why they chose me I do not know, but when people ask, I explain that in my political ventures I had considerable on camera experience making 30-second TV spots, participating in televised debates, appearing on morning shows, and responding to surprise questions from reporters. In my campaign in Charlotte for the U.S. Congress I hosted a weekly interview program on cable television.

While working for the University on legislative matters, I had contacts

with UNC-TV's leadership and, from time to time, appeared on camera during fundraising drives.

In 1995, based on an article I had written for the *Charlotte Observer*, UNC-TV produced a 30-minute program titled "The Search for Princess Charlotte." It dramatized my travels throughout the eastern German area of Mecklenburg looking for the birthplace of Princess Charlotte who gave her name to North Carolina's largest city. The program is still available online. Maybe working together on this project had something to do with my selection as the new host of *Bookwatch*.

Whatever the reason, Tom and Gail asked me to give it a try.

I was thrilled. The opportunity to communicate and provide service to people across the state was a welcome gift.

There is an interesting aside. My very first appearance on UNC-TV occurred many years ago. In 1955, UNC Public Television, operating out of studios in Swain Hall in Chapel Hill, had a series of programs featuring the state's private colleges. I was part of a group of Davidson College students, faculty, and townspeople who came to Chapel Hill to be a part of a program about Davidson. My part was to explain how the program of the college YMCA had helped local boys like me. I think I did okay with my small part. I know that I enjoyed the experience, and its memory made me all the more excited to have my own program.

Tom and Gail reminded me that the show's name, *North Carolina Bookwatch*, evidenced their intention that the books the program featured should have strong North Carolina connections. Otherwise, they expected me to recruit the guests and never gave directions about which authors and books we should include in the program.

They appointed Caroline Frances, an experienced and talented staff member, to be the producer and run the show.

THIRD SEASON (2000)

Mildred Council, *Mama Dip's Kitchen*

Howard Covington *Terry Sanford: Politics, Progress, & Outrageous Ambitions*

John Hope Franklin, *Runaway Slaves*

Judy Goldman, *The Slow Way Back*

Richard Jenrette, *Adventures in Old Houses*

Phillip Manning, *Islands of Hope*

Jill McCorkle, *Final Vinyl Days*

Shannon Ravenel, *Best of the South*

Louis Rubin, *Seaports of the South*

Dean Smith, *A Coach's Life*

Margaret Smith, *North Carolina Women Making History*

Stella Suberman, *The Jew Store*

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Host D.G. Martin's program lists identify guests and short titles of the works they authored or co-authored. Occasionally a guest host led the discussion, and rarely, as indicated, the topic of the program was not a specific book.

Two of the most popular authors in my first season were Mildred "Mama Dip" Council and Coach Dean Smith. Council, the popular founder of a Chapel Hill soul food restaurant, lit up the TV screen with her bright smile and compelling life memories. Her book was on its way to becoming one of UNC Press's most popular publications.

The legendary UNC basketball coach Dean Smith gave a wonderful interview. People had warned me not to ask him about the time early in his career when fans had hung him in effigy after a disappointing loss. But when I asked him about the difficulties in writing his book, he told the whole story. Later, staff members told me that if I could get Dean Smith to come to UNC-TV for a program, they were going to keep me.

The season of 2000 had a different focus from its 1997 and 1998 predecessors. With only a couple of exceptions, the books that I chose for the third season were non-fiction, like those by Council and Smith. No one complained about my shift towards nonfiction, but something would have to change, and it did in the following season.

FOURTH SEASON (2001)

Hal Crowther, *Cathedrals of Kudzu*
Tony Earley, *Jim the Boy*
David Gergen, *Eyewitness to Power*
Josephine Humphreys, *Nowhere Else On Earth*
William Mangum, *Carolina Preserves*
Margaret Maron, *Storm Track*
Michael McFee, *This is Where We Live*
Robert Morgan, *Gap Creek*
Katy Munger, *Bad to the Bone*
Nicholas Sparks, *The Rescue*
Dorothy Spruill-Redford, *Somerset Homecoming*
Daniel Wallace, *Ray in Reverse*

In the fourth season of the program there was a better balance between fiction and nonfiction. That year, a new North Carolina novelist, Tony Earley, made his debut on the show. Several of the authors appearing that season—including Nicholas Sparks, Robert Morgan, and David Gergen—were well-known national figures. Poet Michael McFee presented *This is Where We Live*, an important collection of twenty-five short stories by emerging North Carolina authors. Margaret Maron made her first of many visits to the show to talk about her popular mystery series featuring Judge Deborah Knott.

FIFTH SEASON (2002)

Lucy Daniels, *With a Woman's Voice: A Writer's Struggle for Emotional Development*
John Drescher, *Triumph of Good Will: How Terry Sanford Beat a Champion of Segregation*
Trudier Harris-Lopez, *Saints, Sinners, Saviors: Strong Black Women in African American Literature*
Mel Levine, *A Mind at a Time*
Michael Malone, *Red Clay, Blue Cadillac: Stories of Twelve Southern Women*
Doug Marlette, *The Bridge*
Joan Medlicott, *From the Heart of Covington*
Thomas Parramore, *First to Fly: North Carolina and the Beginnings of Aviation*
Kathy Reichs, *Grave Secrets*
Bland Simpson, *Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals*
Lee Smith, *The Last Girls*
Elizabeth Spencer, *The Southern Woman*

Lee Smith, Michael Malone, Kathy Reichs, and Elizabeth Spencer made their first appearances on the evolving program in 2002. All were to return on several occasions. The program settled into a good blend of fiction and nonfiction. Bland Simpson's genius blended the two forms in his book about a schooner that wrecked on the treacherous Diamond Shoals off the North Carolina coast.

SIXTH SEASON (2003)

Anthony Abbott, *Leaving Maggie Hope*
Catherine Bishir & Michael Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*
Orson Scott Card, *Shadow Puppets*
David Cecelski, *The Waterman's Song*
Anson Dorrance, *The Vision of a Champion*
Pamela Duncan, *Plant Life*
Robert Durden, *Bold Entrepreneur: A Life of James B. Duke*
Gwendoline Fortune, *Growing Up Nigger Rich*
Virginia Holman, *Rescuing Patty Hearst*
Haven Kimmel, *The Solace of Leaving Early*
Reynolds Price, *A Serious Way of Wondering: The Ethics of Jesus Imagined*
Ron Rash, *One Foot in Eden*
Timothy Silver, *Mount Mitchell & The Black Mountains*
Carole Boston Weatherford, *Princeville: The 500 Year Flood*
Isabel Zuber, *Salt*

Ron Rash made his first *Bookwatch* appearance in Season 6 to discuss his debut novel *One Foot in Eden*, a richly textured novel like the others he would return to discuss in later years. Catherine Bishir, a future winner of the North

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Caroliniana Award, and her co-author, Michael Southern, introduced viewers to a slice of North Carolina's rich architectural history. Beloved poet and Davidson College professor Anthony Abbott brought his poignant autobiographical novel, *Leaving Maggie Hope*, to the show. And popular science fiction writer Orson Scott Card not only introduced his latest book, *Shadow Puppets*, but also talked about the success of his classic novel, *Ender's Game*.

SEVENTH SEASON (2004)

Sheila Kay Adams, *My Old True Love*
Karen Barker, *Sweet Stuff: Karen Barker's American Desserts*
Gerald D. Bell (with Dean Smith & John Kilgo),
The Carolina Way: Leadership Lessons From A Life in Coaching
John Dalton, *Heaven Lake*
Jim Early, *Tar Heel Barbecue*
Clyde Edgerton, *Lunch at the Piccadilly*
Bart Ehrman, *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*
Carl Ernst, *Following Muhammad*
John May, *Poe & Fanny*
Sharon McCrumb, *Ghost Riders*
BJ Mountford, *Bloodlines of Shackleford Banks*
Orrin Pilkey, *How to Read a North Carolina Beach*
John Shelton Reed, *Minding the South*
Steve Sherrill, *Visits from the Drowned Girl*
Orin Starn, *Ishi's Brain*
Chuck Stone, *Squizzy the Black Squirrel*
Bill Thompson, *Sweet Tea, Fried Chicken, and Lazy Dogs: Reflections on North Carolina Life*
Walter Turner, *Paving Tobacco Road*
Lynn York, *The Piano Teacher*
J. Peder Zane, *Remarkable Reads*

Bookwatch expanded to twenty program lists for its seventh season. With the airing of repeat episodes, *Bookwatch* could then be on UNC-TV all year long. UNC-Chapel Hill professor of religious studies Bart Ehrman challenged us with his discussion of *Lost Christianities*. Clyde Edgerton made the first of several entertaining appearances to discuss his novel, *Lunch at the Piccadilly*. Barbecue experts Jim Early and John Shelton Reed furthered our education on that important food with appearances marking the publication of their respective books. (Reed was to return in later years with a big barbecue book.) Lynn York, now a publisher of books at John F. Blair in Winston-Salem, talked about her fine story set in our foothills, while Sheila Kay Adams discussed her rich mountain tale, *My Old True Love*, and then sang a lovely song that showed why North Carolinians love her work.

EIGHTH SEASON (2005)

Mary Kay Andrews, *Hissy Fit*
Quinn Dalton, *Bulletproof Girl*
Lawrence Earley, *Looking for Longleaf*
Tommy Hays, *The Pleasure Was Mine*
Robert F. Irwin, *Robert F. Irwin, 40 Years: 1964 to 2004, 40 Years of Painting*
Randall Kenan, *Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century*
Bill Morris, *Saltwater Cowboys*
Lawrence Naumoff, *A Southern Tragedy in Crimson and Yellow*
Moreton Neal, *Remembering Bill Neal*
Michael Parker, *If You Want Me to Stay*
Peter Perret, *A Well-Tempered Mind*
Henry Petroski, *Pushing the Limits*
Shannon Ravenel, *New Stories From the South*
Ann B. Ross, *Miss Julia's School of Beauty*
Jerry Shinn, *Loonis! Celebrating a Lyrical Life*
Amy Tiemann, *Mojo Mom*
Timothy Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name*
Gerhard Weinberg, *Visions of Victory*
Emily Herring Wilson, *No One Gardens Alone*
Martha Witt, *Broken As Things Are*

In 2005, Randall Kenan, who would later serve as a guest host on *Bookwatch*, brought his steel charm to the program for the first time. He explained to viewers the purpose of his latest book, *Walking on Water*, which took him across the country to share and record the experiences of diverse communities of African Americans. Tim Tyson told a disturbing story of racism in a small-town North Carolina in his best-selling book, *Blood Done Sign My Name*.

NINTH SEASON (2006)

Will Blythe, *To Hate Like This Is to Be Happy Forever*
Andrew Britton, *The American*
Tom Carlson, *Hatteras Blues*
Art Chansky, *Blue Bloods*
Angela Davis-Gardner, *Plum Wine*
Sarah Dessen, *Just Listen*
Mark Ethridge, *Grievances*
John Hope Franklin, *Mirror to America*
Charles Frazier, *Thirteen Moons*
Allan Gurganus, *New Stories from the South*

continued

John Hart, *The King of Lies*
Kristin Henderson, *While They're at War*
Dot Jackson, *Refuge*
Paul Leonard, *Music of a Thousand Hammers*
William Leuchtenburg, *The White House Looks South*
David Payne, *Back to Wando Pass*
Bill Smith, *Seasoned in the South*
Lee Smith, *On Agate Hill*
Leah Stewart, *The Myth of You and Me*
Pat Taylor, *Fourth Down and Goal To Go*

In Season Nine, William Leuchtenburg, preeminent historian of the American presidency, talked about his book on presidential connections to the South in *The White House Looks South*. Another famous historian, John Hope Franklin, told his story of the racism he overcame in America, and of the example he set for all of us.

Charles Frazier, author of the bestseller *Cold Mountain*, made his first visit to *Bookwatch* to discuss his second novel, *Thirteen Moons*. The soon-to-be award-winning mystery author John Hart also made his first appearance on the show that year to discuss his novel *The King of Lies*, which was set in Salisbury, where he grew up.

TENTH SEASON (2007)

Joseph Bathanti, *Coventry*
Michele Bowen, *Holy Ghost Corner*
Kathryn Stripling Byer, *Coming to Rest*
James Dodson, *Beautiful Madness*
Mike Easley, *Look Out, College, Here I Come!*
Georgann Eubanks, *Literary Trails of the North Carolina Mountains*
Joe and Terry Graedon, *Best Choices from the People's Pharmacy*
David Guy, *Jake Fades*
Dan Heath, *Made to Stick*
Fred Hobson, *Off the Rim*
Mike Lassiter, *Our Vanishing Americana: A North Carolina Portrait*
Zelda Lockhart, *Cold Running Creek*
Tim Madigan, *I'm Proud of You*
Margaret Maron, *Hard Row*
Melton McLaurin, *The Marines of Montford Point*
James Peacock, *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World*
William S. Powell, *The Encyclopedia of North Carolina*
Joanna Catherine Scott, *The Road from Chapel Hill*
Neal Thompson, *Driving with the Devil*
J. Peder Zane, *The Top Ten: Writers Pick Their Favorite Books*

In 2007, while presenting to *Bookwatch* viewers his magnum opus, *The Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, the state's master historian William S. Powell carefully avoided an argument with me about the authenticity of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Almost always, I have read every book that *Bookwatch* features cover-to-cover, but I had to confess that I had not yet read every word of Professor Powell's treasured tome, with its collection of articles about our state's history and culture.

Having interviewed former North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Pat Taylor the previous season, we persuaded the sitting governor, Mike Easley, to come on the show that year to talk about his new book for young people, and he made a good guest. Although *Bookwatch* generally does not feature poetry, two of North Carolina's favorite poets, Kathryn Stripling Byer, then the state's Poet Laureate, and Joseph Bathanti, a former poet laureate and author of a fine novel, appeared that year. Georgann Eubanks also shared one of her three important books on North Carolina's literary trails.

ELEVENTH SEASON (2008)

Jean Anderson, *A Love Affair with Southern Cooking*
 Wayne Caldwell, *Cataloochee*
 Rob Christensen, *The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics*
 Martin Clark, *The Legal Limit*
 Nina de Gramont, *The Gossip of the Starlings*
 Tony Earley, *Blue Star*
 Clyde Edgerton, *The Bible Salesman*
 Therese Fowler, *Souvenir*
 Joseph T. Glatthaar, *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*
 Nortin Hadler, *Worried Sick*
 Bernie Harberts, *Too Proud to Ride a Cow*
 Louise Hawes, *Black Pearls*
 Anna Hayes, *Without Precedent: The Life of Susie Marshall Sharp*
 Scott Huler, *No-Man's Lands*
 William Link, *Righteous Warrior: Jesse Helms and the Rise of Modern Conservatism*
 Frances Mayes, *A Year in the World*
 Robert Morgan, *Daniel Boone*
 Shelia Moses, *The Baptism*
 Nancy Peacock, *A Broom of One's Own*
 Theda Perdue, *The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears*
 Cindy Ramsey, *Boys of the Battleship North Carolina*
 J.D. Rhodes, *Safe and Sound*
 Anna Rubino, *Queen of the Oil Club: The Intrepid Wanda Jablonski and the Power of Information*
 Eleanora E. Tate, *Celeste's Harlem Renaissance*
 Roy Underhill, *The Woodwright's Guide: Working Wood with Wedge & Edge*
 Eric Wilson, *Against Happiness: In Praise of Melancholy*

continued

Bookwatch recorded twenty-six programs for its eleventh series. Two biographies of important political figures, long-serving U.S. Senator Jesse Helms by William Link, and a book on the state's first female supreme court justice Susie Sharp, by Anna Hayes, were headliners. Therese Fowler, later to become a national bestselling author, made her first appearance on *Bookwatch* to discuss her novel, *Souvenir*. Poet and author Robert Morgan came on the show to discuss his magnificent and enthralling biography of Daniel Boone.

Show producer Morgan Potts pushed us that year to interview Bernie Harberts, the author of *Too Proud to Ride a Cow*. Bernie talked about his travel with his mule from North Carolina to California and his solo sailing trip around the world. It turned out to be one of *Bookwatch's* all-time favorite programs.

TWELTH SEASON (2009)

Dan Ariely, *Predictably Irrational*
 Dan Barefoot, *Hark the Sound of Tar Heel Voices*
 Kate Betterton, *Where the Lake Becomes the River*
 Justin Catanoso, *My Cousin the Saint*
 Michael Davis, *Street Gang*
 Elizabeth Edwards, *Resilience: Reflections on the Burdens and Gifts of Facing Life's Adversities*
 Erica Eisdorfer, *The Wet Nurse's Tale*
 Paul Escott, *What Shall We Do with the Negro?*
 Barbara Fredrickson, *Positivity*
 Brett Friedlander, *Chasing Moonlight*
 Marianne Ginger, *Adventures in Pen Land*
 John Hart, *The Last Child*
 Todd Johnson, *The Sweet By and By*
 John Kessel, *The Baum Plan for Financial Independence*
 Howard Lee, *The Courage to Lead*
 Michael Malone, *The Four Corners of the Sky*
 Jill McCorkle, *Going Away Shoes*
 Marisha Pessl, *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*
 Barry Popkin, *The World Is Fat*
 Reynolds Price, *Ardent Spirits*
 Ron Rash, *Serena*
 John Shelton Reed & Dale Volberg Reed, *Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue*
 Alexandra Sokoloff, *The Unseen*
 Shelby Stephenson, *Family Matters: Homage to July, The Slave Girl*
 Michael Walden, *North Carolina in the Connected Age*
 Roy Williams, *Hard Work: A Life On and Off the Court*
 Andrew Young, *The Politician*

Another poet laureate, Shelby Stephenson, appeared to talk about his *Family Matters: Homage to July, The Slave Girl*, which was, as we discussed on the show, really a book-length novel that just happened to be in poetry. Ron Rash, also a great poet, discussed his blockbuster novel, *Serena*. He later confessed that he sometimes had the logging men in the book speak in iambic pentameter, thereby slipping some beloved poetry into his one of his novels.

Elizabeth Edwards' appearance on the program to talk about her nonfiction book, *Resilience*, as well as that of Andrew Young to talk about *The Politician* recalled the fallout of John Edwards' troubled political campaign in 2008. The great Reynolds Price talked about *Ardent Spirits*, his memoir of his time at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

Chapel Hill bookseller Erica Eisdorfer also came on the show. She set her book, *The Wet Nurse's Tale*, in England and made of it a charming and compelling story.

In the fall, after longstanding disagreements with UNC-TV about the scheduling of *Bookwatch*, I announced my retirement by including the following in my weekly newspaper column: "*D.G. Martin is hosting his final season of UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch, which airs Sundays at 5 p.m.*"

There was no groundswell of support for me either from my readers or *Bookwatch* viewers. But after UNC-TV made some helpful adjustments, I was happy to suspend talk about my retirement until 2018, when the scheduling issue came up again.

For several seasons *Bookwatch* recorded its programs in Swain Hall on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus in the same studio used by William Friday for his program, *North Carolina People*. Thanks to the talents of producer Will Mikes and lighting expert Steve Price, these programs turned out very well. With the untimely death of President Friday in 2012 and the end of his program, the production of *Bookwatch* moved back to the UNC-TV studios in Research Triangle Park.

THIRTEENTH SEASON (2010)

Suzy Barile, *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of A Southern Belle & A Yankee General*

John Claude Bemis, *The Nine Pound Hammer*

Steve Bouser, *Death of a Pinehurst Princess: The 1935 Elva Statler Davidson Mystery*

Nic Brown, *Flood Markers*

Fred Chappell, *Ancestors and Others*

Ronald Cotton & Jennifer Thomson, *Picking Cotton*

Abigail DeWitt, *Dogs*

Heidi Durrow, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*

Minrose Gwin, *The Queen Of Palmyra*

John Hart, *Iron House*

Suzanne Hobbs, *Living Dairy-Free for Dummies*

Scott Huler, *On the Grid*

continued

William Leuchtenburg, *In the Shadow off FDR: From Harry Truman to Barack Obama*
 Malinda Maynor Lowery, *Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South*
 Anna Jean Mayhew, *The Dry Grass of August*
 Andrew Park, *Between a Church and a Hard Place*
 Gary Pearce, *Jim Hunt: A Biography*
 Daniel Pierce, *Real NASCAR: White Lightning, Red Clay, and Big Bill France*
 Kathy Pories, *New Stories from the South*
 Charlene Regester, *African American Actresses: The Struggle for Visibility, 1900–1960*
 Kathy Reichs, *Spider Bones*
 Leonard Rogoff, *Down Home: Jewish Life In North Carolina*
 Lee Smith, *Mrs. Darcy and The Blue-Eyed Stranger*
 Larry Tise, *Conquering The Sky: The Secret Flights Of The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk*
 Wells Tower, *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*
 Michele Young-Stone, *The Handbook for Lightning Strike Survivors*

In the program's thirteenth season, the legendary Fred Chappell shared his short story-telling gifts in *Ancestors and Others*, as did Lee Smith with her *Mrs. Darcy and The Blue-Eyed Stranger*. Kathy Pories, editor of *New Stories from the South*, explained how that popular short story series has regularly introduced readers to some of North Carolina's best writers.

UNC-Asheville professor Daniel Pierce introduced us to NASCAR racing and its connection to moonshine whiskey. In *Picking Cotton*, Jennifer Thomson and Ronald Cotton told their poignant story of how Jennifer's misidentification by authorities led to jail time for Ronald, and subsequently to a partnership between the two of them to fight for other wrongfully convicted people.

That year, historian Larry Tise taught us more about the Wright Brothers' determination to keep their aviation secrets very secret. Also, writer Leonard Rogoff explained his view of Jewish contributions to North Carolina history.

FOURTEENTH SEASON (2011)

Rosecrans Baldwin, *You Lost Me There*
 Steve Berry, *The Jefferson Key*
 Jane Borden, *I Totally Meant to Do That*
 Sheri Castle, *The New Southern Garden Cookbook*
 Diane Daniel, *Farm Fresh North Carolina*
 Angela Davis-Gardner, *Butterfly's Child*
 Jeffery Deaver, *Carte Blanche*
 Clyde Edgerton, *Night Train*
 Sara Foster, *Southern Kitchen: Soulful, Traditional, Seasonal*
 Sharon Ewell Foster, *The Resurrection of Nat Turner, Part One: The Witnesses*
 Charles Frazier, *Nightwoods*
 Joe & Terry Graedon, *Top Screwups Doctors Make and How to Avoid Them*

Robyn Hadley, *Within View, Within Reach: Navigating the College-Bound Journey*
 David Halperin, *Journal of a UFO Investigator*
 Marjorie Hudson, *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas*
 John Kasarda, *Aerotropolis: The Way We'll Live Next*
 Lloyd Kramer, *Nationalism in Europe & America: Politics, Cultures, and Identities*
 Ruth Moose, *Rules and Secrets*
 Michael Parker, *The Watery Part of The World*
 Andrea Reusing, *Cooking in the Moment: A Year of Seasonal Recipes*
 Alan Shapiro, *Broadway Baby*
 Nicholas Sparks, *The Best of Me*
 John Woestendiek, *Dog, Inc.: The Uncanny Inside Story of Cloning Man's Best Friend*

In 2011, Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* and Clyde Edgerton's *Night Train* had two of North Carolina's favorite authors talking about their different ways of telling stories.

Sharon Ewell Foster brought groundbreaking historical research to her fictional account of Nat Turner's rebellion in 1831.

Also that season, prize-winning poet Alan Shapiro discussed his novel, *Broadway Baby*, and Jeffery Deaver talked about the task of writing *Carte Blanche*, a James Bond novel commissioned by Ian Fleming Publications.

FIFTEENTH & SIXTEENTH SEASONS (2012 & 2013)

Walter Bennett, *Leaving Tuscaloosa*
 Bethany Bradsher, *The Classic: Everett Case and His Tournament*
 Jon Buchan, *Code of the Forest*
 Wiley Cash, *A Land More Kind than Home*
 David Cecelski, *The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves' Civil War*
 William Chafe, *Bill and Hillary: The Politics of the Personal*
 Diane Chamberlain, *The Good Father*
 Emily Colin, *The Memory Thief*
 Nancy Collins, *Left Hand Magic*
 Lee Craig, *Josephus Daniels*
 James Dodson, *American Triumvirate: Sam Snead, Byron Nelson, and Ben Hogan*
 Sharon Draper, *Out of My Mind*
 Kevin Duffus, *War Zone—World War II Off the North Carolina Coast*
 Pam Durban, *The Tree of Forgetfulness*
 Woody Durham, *Woody Durham: a Tar Heel Voice*
 Georgann Eubanks, *Literary Trails of Eastern North Carolina*
 Ben Fountain, *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*
 Peng Fu, *Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds*
 Bob Garner, *Bob Garner's Book of Barbecue: North Carolina's Favorite Food*

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Tim Gautreaux, *The Missing*
 Judy Goldman, *Losing My Sister*
 Sandra Gutierrez, *The New Southern-Latino Table*
 Nortin Hadler, *The Citizen Patient*
 Vicki Lane, *Under the Skin*
 Jay Leutze, *Stand Up That Mountain*
 Margaret Maron, *Three Day Town*
 Jill McCorkle, *Life After Life*
 Erik Lars Myers, *North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries*
 Ron Rash, *The Cove*
 Stanley Riggs, *The Battle for North Carolina's Coast*
 Terry Roberts, *A Short Time to Stay Here*
 Ann Ross, *Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind*
 David Rowell, *The Train of Small Mercies*
 Sarah Shaber, *Louise's Gamble*
 Bland Simpson, *Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy & John Newland Maffitt*
 Lee Smith & Jill McCorkle, "Fundraising Special with Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle"
 John Sullivan, *Pulphead: Essays*
 Shelia Turnage, *Three Times Lucky*
 Daniel Wallace, *The Kings and Queens of Roam*
 Heather Williams, *Help Me to Find My People: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery*
 Susan Woodring, *Goliath*

Bookwatch produced forty programs during the 2012 season—a record. We had enough programs for two seasons, and in fact did not tape shows during 2013. During one show that year, *Bookwatch* tried to raise funds from its viewers with a joint appeal from the authors Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle. Sports themes were addressed in our fifteenth season by the beloved play-by-play announcer Woody Durham in his memoir, and by Bethany Bradsher, who took us back to Everett Case and the annual Dixie Classic basketball tournament in Raleigh.

That season, North Carolina native Ben Fountain came back home to talk about his critically acclaimed novel, *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*. And David Cecelski convinced me that not only that the tale of Abraham Galloway and his exploits during and after the Civil War should be taught to every North Carolinian, but also that the Galloway's story could be the basis for a great film.

In 2013, with no new taping, *Bookwatch* was put at risk by a demand from the chairperson of the state's Republican Party. His press release read as follows:

"Taxpayer-Funded UNC-TV Host Compares North Carolina Republicans to Nazis; North Carolina Republicans Condemn Statement and Call for Apology and Suspension"

Less than one week after the North Carolina General Assembly adjourned its 2013 long session, a taxpayer-funded television station host has made an

inexcusable, disgusting and shameful comparison that will damage the reputation of an otherwise upstanding organization.

D.G. Martin hosts North Carolina Bookwatch which airs twice a week on UNC-TV. On July 29th Martin released an article entitled “Egypt, Nazi Germany, and North Carolina” which included multiple references to Nazi Germany in relation to the recent reforms supported by North Carolina Republicans. Martin frames those that don’t see the newly enacted Republican reforms through his lens, as mere Republican apologists. In relation to the excuse making Republican “apologists” Martin writes, “Similar explanations were made to explain away Nazi excesses when they took power in Germany in 1933.” Martin continues the comparison with a quote from Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, “Now our party is in charge and they are free again.”

“It’s a shame that UNC-TV televises such a divisive, toxic, personality with our taxpayer funds,” said Republican Party Chairman Claude Pope. “After Martin’s latest article, North Carolinians should expect this left wing zealot who is parading as a television host in front of dozens of viewers to take his next job alongside Rachel Maddow on MSNBC. We call on UNC-TV to suspend this program while they evaluate their relationship with their host who made such an outrageous and damaging comparison. Such divisive hyperbole only serves to confuse and trivialize issues that are important to North Carolinians, who all deserve a formal apology.”

Although I thought the point of my column had been misunderstood, I quickly offered an apology. UNC-TV explained that Bookwatch and my newspaper column were not connected. Thankfully, the issue melted away quickly. But I will always cherish the comparison to Rachel Maddow.

SEVENTEENTH SEASON (2014)

Wilton Barnhardt, *Look Away, Look Away*

Krista Bremer, *My Accidental Jihad*

Wiley Cash, *This Dark Road to Mercy*

Pat Conroy, *The Death of Santini*

Jeffery Deaver, *The October List*

Sarah Dessen, *The Moon and More*

Tom Eamon, *The Making of a Southern Democracy: North Carolina Politics*

Larry Earley, *The Workboats of Core Sound: Stories and Photographs of a Changing World*

Tom Earnhardt, *Crossroads of the Natural World: Exploring North Carolina with Tom Earnhardt*

William Ferris, *The Storied South: Voices of Writers and Artists*

Philip Gerard, *Down the Wild Cape Fear: A River Journey through the Heart of North Carolina*

Alena Graedon, *The Word Exchange*

Allan Gurganus, *Local Souls*

Tommy Hayes, *What I Came to Tell You*

Robert Inman, *The Governor’s Lady*

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John Kasson, *The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America*

Ruth Moose, *Doing It at the Dixie Dew*

Jason Mott, *The Returned*

Elaine Orr, *A Different Sun: A Novel of Africa*

Michael Parker, *All I Have in This World*

Peggy Payne, *Cobalt Blue*

Drew Perry, *Kids These Days*

Marisha Pessl, *Night Film*

Lee Smith, *Guests on Earth*

Elizabeth Spencer, *Starting Over: Stories*

Walt Wolfram, *Talkin' Tar Heel: How Our Voices Tell the Story of North Carolina*

I will always remember the call I got from my former boss, Dick Spangler, after *Bookwatch* aired Wilton Barnhardt's *Look Away, Look Away* during our seventeenth season. I had worried that Barnhardt's fictional and comically critical descriptions of Charlotte's insider power group might offend President Spangler. But he called instead to criticize my handling of the interview. He said that I had moved the discussion from the book to Barnhardt's role in the graduate teaching of writers at N.C. State University. He wanted to hear more about the book.

The great Elizabeth Spencer made her final appearance on *Bookwatch* in 2014 with *Starting Over: Stories*. She was as charming and beautiful as ever and delighted in my inability to know the answers to the teasingly ambiguous endings to her clever stories. We first got to know Jason Mott that year when he came on the show to talk about his first hit novel, *The Returned*, which quickly became the basis of a 2014 ABC-TV series titled *Resurrection*, which, like the book, was based on the return of dead people to the living world and their impact on the daily lives of the people around them.

Regularly vacationing in our mountains as a youth, South Carolina author Pat Conroy loved Thomas Wolfe. *The Death of Santini*, presenting the complicated relationship that Conroy had with his dying father, provided us with his only appearance on *Bookwatch*. When I asked him about the things that contributed to his writing success, he said simply, "I notice things." After the countdown ("five, four, three, two, one") before the recording of our interview had been aborted several times because of some minor glitches in the control room, he told us it was something that he "noticed," would remember, and might use in a book in the future.

EIGHTEENTH SEASON (2015)

Dwayne Ballen, *Journey with Julian*

Joseph Bathanti, *Half of What I Say Is Meaningless*

Charles Blackburn, *Sweet Souls*

Sheri Castle, *The Southern Living Community Cookbook*

Kim Church, *Byrd*

Hal Crowther, *An Infuriating American: The Incendiary Arts of H. L. Mencken*
 Rob Dunn, *The Man Who Touched His Own Heart*
 Marcie Ferris, *The Edible South: The Power of Food and the Making of an American Region*
 Howard Fuller, *No Struggle, No Progress*
 Bob Garner, *Foods That Make You Say Mmm-mmm*
 E. C. Hanes, *Billy Bowater*
 Martin Harmon, *Charles 'Lefty' Driesell: A Basketball Legend*
 Lynne Hinton, *The Art of Arranging Flowers*
 Allegra Jordan, *The End of Innocence: A Novel*
 Rebecca Lee, *Bobcat and Other Stories*
 Margaret Maron, *Designated Daughters*
 Frances Mayes, *Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir*
 Douglas McCullough, *Sea of Greed*
 Jason Mott, *The Wonder of All Things*
 Julian Pleasants, *The Political Career of W. Kerr Scott, The Squire from Haw River*
 Doug Orr & Fiona Ritchie,
Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage from Scotland and Ulster to Appalachia
 Katy Simpson Smith, *The Story of Land and Sea*
 Earl Swift, *Auto Biography: A Classic Car, an Outlaw Motorhead, and 57 Years of the American Dream*
 Scott Syfert, *The First American Declaration of Independence*
 A. J. Tata, *Foreign and Domestic*
 Cat Warren, *What the Dog Knows: The Science and Wonder of Working Dogs*

On January 14, 2015, *The Indy Weekly* published an article by Zack Smith about UNC-Wilmington's Rebecca Lee's appearance on *Bookwatch*. The article, headlined, "Host D.G. Martin's Enthusiasm and Curiosity Drive UNC-TV Program *North Carolina Bookwatch*." In his article, Smith wrote:

"Two people chat amid a makeshift book nook with a round table and bookshelves on a soundstage at the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television in Research Triangle Park, across from the darkened, lumber-piled set of Roy Underhill's *"The Woodwright's Shop."* The set is artificial, but the enthusiasm is real, as host D.G. Martin interviews UNC-Wilmington associate professor Rebecca Lee for the latest installment of UNC-TV's *North Carolina Bookwatch*, which Martin has hosted since 1999."

"Unfolding in real time over one take, the program isn't flashy. It's just a simple half-hour of Martin talking to Lee about her 2013 fiction collection, *Bobcat and Other Stories*, over two large cups of coffee, with nothing more technical than camera operators occasionally flashing a card that lets Martin know how much time he has left."

"Even in the visually oriented world of television, the otherwise static quality of two people sitting at a table, talking about a book, becomes strangely engaging. Martin explains that he came up with two different meanings behind one of Lee's

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stories after reading it twice. She responds with an anecdote explaining the thought process behind the story and the personal experiences that inspired it. Everything is driven by Martin's curiosity about how Lee wrote her stories, and Lee discussing how her life and work affect each other. (The episode will air in early spring.) It's like sitting in on a good book club."

Later in 2015, Kathryn "Katy" Loebrich accepted responsibility for producing *Bookwatch*. She is one of the most experienced staff members at UNC-TV and is a student of writing. That combination—combined with her amazing work ethic—have made the program even better in recent years.

NINETEENTH SEASON (2016)

- Margaret Bauer, *A Study of Scarlett: Scarlett O'Hara and Her Literary Daughters*
 Patricia Bell-Scott, *The Firebrand & the First Lady*
 Warren Bingham, *George Washington's 1791 Southern Tour*
 Dan Bolger, *Why We Lost: A General's Inside Account of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars*
 Bart Ehrman, *Jesus Before the Gospels*
 Scott Ellsworth, *The Secret Game*
 John Hart, *Redemption Road*
 Kimberly Marlowe Hartnett, *Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made Us Care*
 Kristy Harvey, *Lies & Other Acts of Love*
 Bryan King, Angela King, & Shane Heavner, *12 Bones Smokehouse: A Mountain BBQ Cookbook*
 John Hood, *Catalyst: Jim Martin and the Rise of North Carolina Republicans*
 Konrad Jarausch, *Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the Twentieth Century*
 Randy Johnson, *Grandfather Mountain: The History and Guide to an Appalachian Icon*
 Bridgett Lacy, *Sunday Dinner*
 William Leuchtenburg, *The American President*
 Margaret Maron, *Long Upon the Land*
 Robert Morgan, *Chasing the North Star*
 David Payne, *Barefoot to Avalon: A Brother's Story*
 Ron Rash, *Above the Waterfall*
 John Reed, *Barbecue*
 Kathy Reichs, *Speaking in Bones*
 John Rosenthal, *After: The Silence of the Lower 9th Ward*
 Pam Saulsby, *Ashley's High Five For Daddy*
 Sarah Shaber, *Louise's Chance*
 Bland Simpson & Ann Simpson, *Little Rivers and Waterway Tales: A Carolinian's Eastern Streams*
 Lee Smith, *Dimestore: A Memoir in Stories*
 Ron Stodghill, *Where Everybody Looks Like Me*
 Art Taylor, *On the Road with Del & Louise*
 Charles Thompson, *Border Odyssey*
 Damon Tweedy, *Black Man in a White Coat*

In 2016, Ron Stodghill, Damon Tweedy, Patricia Bell-Scott, and Scott Ellsworth gave us special insider looks at the historical and continuing efforts to deal with the challenges that African Americans face. The editor of *The North Carolina Literary Review*, East Carolina's Margaret Bauer, taught us about how the character of Scarlett O'Hara has influenced writing about Southern women. Robert Morgan also gave a look at the complexities of race in a small book about a precocious young enslaved boy who made his way from a mountain farm (near where Morgan grew up in Zirconia) up all the way to Cornell University in New York, where Robert Morgan has taught for more than fifty years. Also that season, Bland and Ann Simpson shared with viewers their usual enthusiasm and charm while conveying an account of their personal explorations of our eastern waters.

TWENTIETH SEASON (2017)

Kevin Adams, *North Carolina Waterfalls*
 Renee Ahdieh, *The Rose & The Dagger*
 John Claude Bemis, *Out of Abaton: The Wooden Prince*
 Art Chansky, *Game Changers: Dean Smith & Charlie Scott*
 Fred Chappell, *A Shadow All of Light*
 Elizabeth Cox, *A Question of Mercy*
 Nina DeGramont, *The Last September*
 Tony Earley, *Mr. Tall*
 Donna Everhart, *The Education of Dixie Dupree*
 William Ferris, *The South in Color*
 Sara Foster, *Foster's Market Favorites: 25th Anniversary*
 Matthew Griffin, *Hide*
 Ralph Hardy, *Argos*
 Vivian Howard, *Deep Run Roots: Stories and Recipes from My Corner of the South*
 Kenneth Janken, *The Wilmington Ten: Violence, Injustice, and the Rise of Black Politics in the 1970s*
 Randall Kenan, *The Carolina Table: North Carolina Writers on Food*
 Nancy Peacock, *The Life & Times of Persimmon Wilson*
 Angela Pisel, *With Love From the Inside*
 Brenda Remmes, *Home to Cedar Branch*
 Richard Rosen & Joseph Mosnier, *Julius Chambers: A Life in the Legal Struggle for Civil Rights*
 John Semonche, *Pick Nick: The Political Odyssey of Nick Galifianakis*
 Steve Sherrill, *The Minotaur Takes His Own Sweet Time*
 Fred Thompson, *Bacon (A Savor the South Cookbook)*
 Timothy Tyson, *The Blood of Emmett Till*
 Carole Boston Weatherford & Jeffery Weatherford, *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen*
 Karin Zipf, *Bad Girls at Samarcand: Sexuality and Sterilization in a Southern Juvenile Reformatory*

continued

During the show's nineteenth season, chef Vivian Howard lit up the kitchen setting at UNC-TV's studios as she explained how and why she wrote *Deep Run Roots* in the midst of opening a restaurant, hosting and producing a popular public television program, and raising a family. In what would prove to be his final appearance as a guest on *Bookwatch* in 2017, author Randall Kenan captivated our viewers as he spoke about food with authority and charm.

Fred Chappell reminded us of his genius, imagination, and skillful writing as he discussed *A Shadow All of Light*. Tim Tyson explained how Emmett Till's death was the "most notorious racial incident" in the history of the country and possibly the world, and how it was not only a crucifixion, but also a resurrection of a movement.

TWENTY-FIRST SEASON (2018)

Heather Bell Adams, *Maranatha Road*
 Graham Allison, *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?*
 Michele Tracy Berger, *Reenu-You*
 Belle Boggs, *The Art of Waiting: On Fertility, Medicine, and Motherhood*
 Wiley Cash, *The Last Ballad*
 Mark de Castrique, *Hidden Scars*
 Jim Dodson, *The Range Bucket List: The Golf Adventure of a Lifetime*
 Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*
 Charles Frazier, *Varina: A Novel*
 Phillip Gerard, *The Dark of the Island*
 John Grisham, *Camino Island*
 Ed Haag, *Charlie Soong: North Carolina's Link to the Fall of the Last Emperor of China*
 John Hart, *The Hush*
 Elizabeth Kostova, *The Shadow Land*
 Charlie Lovett, *The Lost Book of the Grail*
 Margaret Maron, *Take Out*
 Jim Martin, *Revelation Through Science: Evolution in the Harmony of Science and Religion*
 Julian Pleasants, *Home Front: North Carolina During World War II*
 Joseph Robinson, *Long Winded: An Oboist's Incredible Journey to the New York Philharmonic*
 Cindy Waszak Geary & LaHoma Smith Romocki, *Going to School in Black and White*
 Kathleen Burkinshaw, *The Last Cherry Blossom* (guest hosted by Randall Kenan)
 Karen Cox, *Goat Castle* (guest hosted by Malinda Maynor Lowery)
 Stephanie Elizondo Griest, *All the Agents and Saints* (guest hosted by Malinda Maynor Lowery)
 Alex Harris & Margaret Sartor, *Dream of a House* (guest hosted by Randall Kenan)

Charles Frazier appeared twice in the program's twentieth season, once for a 20th anniversary retrospective on his blockbuster novel, *Cold Mountain*, and then for a first look at his latest book, *Varina*. In the show revisiting *Cold Mountain*, he told me that he resists invitations to read from *Cold Mountain* because there is always some little thing he wishes that he could change in the book.

Former Governor Jim Martin and his book, *Revelation Through Science: Evolution in the Harmony of Science and Religion*, demonstrated why he was a popular and effective science teacher before he entered politics.

Even though John Grisham's novel *Camino Island* begins in Chapel Hill (where he owns a home) and even though his wife, Renee, grew up in Raleigh (where their daughter and grandchildren now live), still he rejected my suggestion that he is really a North Carolinian himself.

John Hart explained his turn towards the supernatural in *The Hush*, a book filled with the unexplained and the occult.

Bookwatch guests Randall Kenan and Malinda Maynor Lowery brought their skills as interviewers in the 2018 season, during which each writer served as guest host for two programs.

In the spring of 2018, I again raised with the production team and UNC-TV's senior management some issues that were preventing me from agreeing to participate in producing new programming for *Bookwatch*. They already knew my feelings about the apparent downgrading of *Bookwatch* by UNC-TV, as well as my specific concerns about detrimental scheduling changes made over the previous several years.

I told them that I had continued to receive complaints from former viewers who had lost their regular viewing times to watch the program and were holding me responsible for this situation. Although I was enjoying the production of these programs and the opportunity to work with my colleagues, I could not agree to go forward until these matters were addressed and UNC-TV confirmed *Bookwatch*'s status as a valued program with favorable and stable viewing times. Since those assurances were not then available, I suggested we work together to select "programming for *Bookwatch* viewers from the bank of about 400 programs, and work together in other ways to retain our audience and enhance the possibility of producing a new season sometime very soon."

Once again we reached a compromise, and worked out a way to produce enough programs for a new season. The broadcast schedule was adjusted, and we ended up working together to produce one of the program's best seasons the next year in 2019. We had to do it in a hurry—on one day we ended up recording four separate programs.

In the end, I decided that I was not going to win my battle to have *Bookwatch* scheduled in a convenient evening time. I gave up that fight for two reasons:

1. Viewing habits were in fact changing dramatically, as people learned to record programs to view when they wanted. People were learning they could watch programs online from UNC-TV's website or YouTube.

2. I did not want to give up the privileged opportunity to continue to play a part in creating an accessible electronic record of North Carolina authors talking about their work, which I think will be a treasure for generations to come.

Meanwhile, *Bookwatch* producer Katy Loebrich had arranged for two

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Bookwatch specials to be produced that year. In the first program—one co-sponsored with Orange Literacy—novelist John Grisham interviewed Gene Nichol about his new book, *The Faces of Poverty in North Carolina*. And on Lee Smith's side porch in Hillsborough, she and Clyde Edgerton, Jill McCorkle, and Allan Gurganus—together with literary editor Shannon Ravenel—discussed the process of writing and the art of storytelling.

TWENTY-SECOND SEASON (2019)

Ali Standish, *The Ethan I Was Before*
 Daniel Wallace, *Extraordinary Adventures*
 Stephanie Powell Watts, *No One Is Coming to Save Us*
 Rob Christensen, *The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys*
 Hal Crowther, *Freedom Fighters and Hell Raisers: A Gallery of Memorable Southerners*
 Sarah Dessen, *The Rest of the Story*
 Georgann Eubanks, *The Month of Their Ripening*
 Judy Goldman, *Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap*
 Scott Huler, *A Delicious Country: Rediscovering John Lawson's Carolinas*
 Anne Keene, *The Cloudbuster Nine: The Untold Story of Ted Williams and a Baseball Team*
 Denise Kiernan, *The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty*
 David La Vere, *The Tuscarora War: Indians, Settlers, and the Fight for the Carolina Colonies*
 Andrew Lawler, *The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke*
 Charlie Lovett, *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll ("The Great American Read" program)
 Malinda Maynor Lowery, *The Lumbee Indians: An American Struggle*
 Jason Mott, *The Crossing*
 Elaine Orr, *Swimming Between Worlds*
 Delia Owens, *Where the Crawdads Sing*
 Daniel Pierce, *Tar Heel Lightnin'*
 Ron Rash, *The Risen*
 Etaf Rum, *A Woman Is No Man*
 Tom Santopietro, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee ("The Great American Read" program)
 Samia Serageldin and Lee Smith, *Mothers and Strangers*
 T. R. Simon, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston ("The Great American Read" program)
 Nicholas Sparks, *The Notebook*
 Nicholas Sparks, *Every Breath*
 William Sturkey, *Hattiesburg: An American City in Black and White*
 Tommy Tomlinson, *The Elephant in the Room*
 Joe L. Webster, *The Making and Measure of a Judge*
 De'Shawn Charles Winslow, *In West Mills*

As a part of a grant secured by Katy Loebrich from PBS's "The Great American Read" program, we traveled to New Bern to record Nicholas Sparks talking about his breakout novel, *The Notebook*, which had been selected as one of America's 100 favorite books. He discussed how and why that book got written and why it was set in North Carolina. While we were there, we got him to talk about his most recent book, *Every Breath*.

The grant from PBS also supported *Bookwatch's* visit to Winston-Salem's Bookmarks Festival, where we recorded a program featuring three other Great American Read books. While there, we heard Stephanie Powell Watts explain why her book, *No One Is Coming to Save Us*—a story set in a small town in the North Carolina foothills—has been compared to the classic novel, *The Great Gatsby*. Also in 2019, longtime guest Georgann Eubanks talked about her book on favorite North Carolina foods.

TWENTY-THIRD SEASON (2020)

Doug Bock Clark, *The Last Whalers*
 Martin Clark, *The Substitution Order*
 Cassandra King Conroy, *Tell Me a Story: Life with Pat Conroy*
 William Darity & A. Kirsten Mullen, *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans*
 Rufus Edmisten, *That's Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate, & Public Life*
 Bart Ehrman, *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife*
 Jaki Shelton Green, "North Carolina's Poet Laureate"
 John Grisham, *The Guardians*
 Allan Gurganus, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and *Uncollected Stories*
 Kristy Woodson Harvey, *Feels Like Falling*
 Pam Kelly, *Money Rock: A Family's Story of Cocaine, Race, and Ambition in the New South*
 Sue Monk Kidd, *The Book of Longings*
 Devi Laskar, *The Atlas of Reds and Blue*
 Jodi Magness, *Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth*
 Kimmerly Martin, *The Antidote for Everything*
 Jill McCorkle, *Hieroglyphics*
 David Menconi, *Step It Up and Go: The Story of North Carolina Popular Music*
 Mary Alice Monroe, *The Summer Guests*
 Ricky Moore, *The Saltbox Seafood Joint Cookbook*
 Kathy Reichs, *A Conspiracy of Bones*
 Lee Smith, *Blue Marlin*
 Emily Wallace, *Road Sides: An Illustrated Companion to Dining and Driving in the American South*
 Liza Wieland, *Paris 7 A.M.*
 David Zucchino, *Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy*

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In the spring of 2020, after recording interviews with Kristy Woodson Harvey, Cassandra King Conroy, and Mary Alice Monroe that previous fall at Isothermal Community College (plus an interview with John Grisham at Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill and Martin Clark at the UNC-TV studios in RTP), the COVID-19 pandemic closed in on us. I wrote about this challenge in my newspaper column:

Bookstores closed. So did college campuses. UNC-TV's studios and offices shut down completely, leaving its enormous and normally bustling facility an empty cavern.

At the time it looked like a lost season for Bookwatch. But then the program's producer, Katy Loeblich, suggested trying to use the video conferencing software Zoom to produce one author interview on a trial basis, just to see what problems would have to be overcome before it would be suitable for regular broadcast. David Zucchini, author of Wilmington's Lie, agreed to be our guinea pig for the show. Katy connected from her home in Durham, I connected from my home in Chapel Hill, and we both connected to David, who had logged in from his den in Durham.

The result was not perfect—a little patchy—but nonetheless encouraging. Later, thanks to Katy's editing, the program was more than a successful experiment. It passed muster and was aired in August. That success led us to try another program using Zoom, this time with Sue Monk Kidd, author of The Book of Longings.

We had found that we were able to produce programs without being in face-to-face, direct contact with our guests. Subsequently, we recorded a conversation with Lee Smith, who was spending the summer in Maine.

One of our scheduled authors, Devi Laskar, author of The Atlas of Reds and Blues, grew up in Chapel Hill but now lives in California. With the new distance capability, we were able to interview her from her home thousands of miles away, an interview that might not have happened otherwise.

From her home in Cornelius, North Carolina, former Charlotte Observer reporter Pam Kelly talked about her book, Money Rock: A Family's Story of Cocaine, Race, and Ambition in the New South.

Other authors who might have been too busy to make their way to the UNC-TV's studios, even though they are close by, have given interviews because they did not have to leave home, or take time in traveling to our studios in RTP.

For instance, William Darity and his wife Kirsten Mullen, authors of From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century, sat down in their living room in Durham to discuss their recent book on reparations.

The success continued with an interview with Kathy Reichs, speaking with us from Charlotte about A Conspiracy of Bones. Daniel Pierce, author of Tar Heel Lightnin': How Secret Stills and Fast Cars Made North Carolina the Moonshine Capital of the World, saved himself a seven-hour round trip from his home in Asheville by doing his interview via Skype.

A little later on in this virtual experiment, some authors who live nearby—such as Allan Gurganus, Jodi Magness, and Jill McCorkle—traveled to UNC-TV's specially-adapted, newly-reopened studios to tape their shows, after being assured that they

would be in a separate room from the host, thereby reducing the risk that might have been involved in communicating the COVID-19 across the same table.

As bad as the coronavirus has been, in the course of having to adapt to it, Bookwatch has made improvements that will be a permanent benefit for both the viewers and the authors who are the stars of the programs.

PART II: INSIDE BOOKWATCH HOW DOES BOOKWATCH SELECT BOOKS AND AUTHORS?

Bookwatch features books and authors with strong North Carolina connections. The unashamedly program promotes North Carolina-based authors and books that are about North Carolina or set in the state. (In the case of a few famous authors, such as John Grisham and Pat Conroy, we have bent the rule a little bit.)

Bookwatch looks for variety and diversity. It strives for a balance between fiction and nonfiction, for representation from different parts of the state, for a balance between men and women authors, and different ethnicities and ages.

Because there are at least one thousand North Carolina-related books published every year, obviously we are not able to feature them all, nor can we read them all. Nor can *Bookwatch* be a launch site for a new book by an unknown author who lacks the backing of a major publisher—unless, perhaps, the author is well-known or notorious. We look for books and authors that our viewers will want to learn about, or know more about. We have to rely on authors who have already generated interest from critics and readers before they appear on the radar of the *Bookwatch* team.

Finally, I advocate for books and authors that will excite me and will interest and engage *Bookwatch* viewers.

Because of these considerations and production limits, *Bookwatch* has to turn down some very fine books and authors each year.

On the other hand, we have to fight for the attention of some other very popular authors, and try to persuade them to give *Bookwatch* viewers a chance to get to know them. Our viewers would love to see Anne Tyler—who grew up in North Carolina, went to Duke University, and is one of my favorite authors—but she has never been available to come on the show. When the “Mitford” series by Jan Karon was most popular, we could not persuade her to visit *Bookwatch*, even when her great friend and *Bookwatch* sponsor, the noted Raleigh bookseller Nancy Olsen, pushed her to appear on the show.

Bottom line, we look for books and authors who will make for programs that will interest our viewers.

The results do not always satisfy, as former *Bookwatch* producer Morgan Potts remembers:

c o n t i n u e d

"Early on, D.G. was drawn to books from the world of academia and history, more of an old school boys club. Guests with gratuitous eyebrows and sport coats that smelled of mothballs were the norm. Being in my late twenties, I pushed to include books that I would want to read. D.G.'s range expanded and we began to curate seasons balanced with fiction/nonfiction, gender, and ethnic diversity. I was proud to see him interview his first sci-fi and young adult authors. I'll never forget his face when I put Too Proud to Ride a Cow in his hands. The book featured a fellow who rode a mule across the country. He would say that it is not really his thing, but would give it a try."

Morgan did a good turn. *Too Proud to Ride a Cow* gave us one of *Bookwatch's* most favorite programs in Season 11.

Usually an author's appearance on *Bookwatch* is a one-time thing. But a few writers have made multiple visits to *Bookwatch*. Guests who have appeared three times or more are some of North Carolina's most beloved authors: Wiley Cash, David Cecelski, Hal Crowther, Sarah Dessen, Tony Earley, Clyde Edgerton, Georgann Eubanks, Charles Frazier, Judy Goldman, Allan Gurganus, John Hart, Scott Huler, William Leuchtenburg, Jill McCorkle, Margaret Maron, Robert Morgan, Michael Parker, Ron Rash, Kathy Reichs, Lee Smith, and Nicholas Sparks.

HOW TO INTERVIEW A GUEST ON TELEVISION

William Friday told a story about the early days of his show, *North Carolina People*. He was a little bit nervous himself with one of his first guests, former UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Robert House:

"We knew he would be good because he could talk your head off. I prepared about thirty questions. I was on number twenty-nine and we were only nine minutes into the program."

House was giving short "yes or no" answers to every question.

"I got into a cold sweat. Then I remembered that Chancellor House had written a book. One of the topics was about American cheese. So I asked him what was it like? And for the next twenty minutes he went on without interruption."

"So lesson number one is: never ask a question that can be answered 'yes' or 'no.'"

President Friday's lesson number two is that "every North Carolinian has a story to tell. So the lesson is to be quiet and listen."

Lesson number three, Friday said, is that conversations with his guests should have "real historic significance." Their spontaneous comments and expressions will give special insights for those who study the history of our times. But it is not only for history. President Friday said that he wanted today's viewers to be enlightened, as when he interviewed the doctors who treated his heart condition.

I try to follow Friday's rules, but sometimes I fail, as this recent piece of fan mail pointed out:

"Yet another show with a fascinating guest. But for me it's another tense twenty-

plus minutes, knowing that their responses to the courtly, halting questions will be stopped short.”

“Interrupting repeatedly, you ask the guests to talk about something that they are already trying to get out, or you re-state for them—not always well—a thought they’d almost succeeded in completing, or you regularly switch tracks completely.”

“Many is the time I’ve whispered a rude word, frustrated again that the rest of an interesting thought was simply and abruptly cut off.”

“You have lined up folks who by definition are better communicators than yourself. Yet you will not let them do what they do, truncating responses with gesticulating, thrashing attempts at insight usually more deliverable by your guests.”

“You are a fine, generous, gracious man, an obvious product of Southern civility with a stellar record of public service, but your interview style is marred by bad manners—and that’s bad television.”

I hate it, but that person is right.

Interrupting an author talking with passion is a high crime.

Being a curious good listener is the key to a successful interview.

Former producer Morgan Potts remembers that I had another problem of talking too much when the viewers wanted to hear from the guest.

Potts recalls: *“In the beginning, his introductions to each episode would go a little long. He would tee up the author and go on for minutes. In TV, that feels like hours. I would cut back and forth to the author squirming as D.G. would give a back story worthy of a Nobel Prize for Literature induction speech. I would say the sooner we can hear the author speak, the better. D.G. just wanted to make sure the viewer was caught up on what makes that particular author special.”*

Our best programs are when I say the least.

Other things I do to prepare:

I read the books. It’s amazing how authors appreciate talking with someone who knows what interests the author.

I do not have a list of questions (like the thirty questions that President Friday had for Chancellor House). But I do have a list of areas of interest and, I admit, some questions in reserve. In the Green Room where the guests and I wait comfortably before we are called into the studio, I try to talk enough with the authors so that they know that I want to learn more—and that they can trust me

Then when we begin, I try to remember the points made by that fan of the show and by Morgan. Viewers want to hear from the guest, and my job is to help the author talk about matters that fill him or her with passion—and then try not to interrupt.

The point is to be a good listener, not a preacher, teacher, or commentator. The show belongs to the author.

Lawyers have a rule that you should never ask a question that you do not know what the answer is. It’s a bit different for *Bookwatch*, because you want to get authors from time to time to give some surprising answers. You want to know

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as much as possible about the author and the author's interests, but you do not necessarily want the program to be a set of a predefined answers, in which you have essentially shoehorned the program into a straight-laced format. You want the author and the audience to be surprised.

GETTING READY TO GO ON CAMERA

What goes on in the studio to prepare to go on camera? Typically we try to tape two programs on a single day. Up until a few years ago, when budget cuts put an end to having professional makeup, we had the pleasure of Owen Scott taking care to make me and the guest look good. Owen is not only an artist but also a great storyteller, always ready with tales about how he followed his salesman father around to beauty shops and got to know the culture of those special places. We miss Owen, and viewers are punished by having to look at the wrinkled face and unkempt hair of this aging host.

HOW DO AUTHORS WRITE?

Writers on *Bookwatch* tell about their different ways to approach the task of writing. Here are a few examples from selected *Bookwatch* guests.

John Grisham knows the ending before he begins a novel. With an outline before him, he writes the story he already has in mind. Of course, he can change and add and enrich, but he has a plan.

Lee Smith and many other authors say they start their books without knowing exactly where they are going. They have a theme and ideas about their characters, and then, they say, the characters take charge.

John Russell, talking about his 2019 novel, *All the Right Circles*, said he frames his characters. Then, in his words, they “start misbehaving.”

Nicholas Sparks says that he has a simple formula. Find a man and a woman. Bring them together. Have something set them apart. And then have them find a way to get back together.

Charles Frazier has something like a four-year plan. After his latest book is published and he has finished the book tour and promotions, he rests and clears his head for a year. The second year he looks for themes and locations, characters, and studies up on history. He does a lot of intensive historical research. The third year he writes—and writes—about these themes and characters, but does not try to force the story. In the final year, as a story line has developed, he writes with real purpose.

Ron Rash says his books have started with an image: A woman on a horse for *Serena*, and water images for other books, such as his latest, *The Risen*.

Pat Conroy told me his secret was that he noticed things—and later wrote down what he noticed. Maybe this is why he was the master of capturing vivid conversations.

Mystery and crime writer Jeffery Deaver told us about his preparatory process before beginning writing: *"I spend about eight months researching and outlining my book. Most of this is through books, publications, and the Internet. I do, of course, interview individuals who're knowledgeable about the subjects I'm researching, but doing this often results in too much information. There's nothing wrong with over-researching, but there's a problem when you put too much of your research in the book. All the technical details have to further the plot. If not, out they should go."*

THE FUTURE OF BOOKWATCH – AND TELEVISION AS WE KNOW IT

A recent book review in the *Wall Street Journal* was headlined, "Does the Book Have a Future?"

What a crazy question! The more important question for me is: Does a broadcast television program about books have a future?

The television world is changing. Many people no longer watch their favorite programs on broadcast television or on cable/satellite television. Someone told me that more people watch PBS's BBC programs on Apple TV than on UNC-TV. So what will happen to our statewide public television network when all of these options—and more—develop?

For UNC-TV to continue to be relevant, it will have to produce or arrange for the production of programs and services that serve the North Carolina public, ones that are not easily available on other platforms. UNC-TV will need to depend on programming that is special—programs that are produced locally and that are connected to North Carolina. I hope that *North Carolina Bookwatch* can help.

In addition to the challenges to broadcast television in general, *Bookwatch* faces its own particular set of challenges. Twenty years ago, UNC-TV and *Bookwatch* had a statewide monopoly on video programs featuring North Carolina authors. Today, a bookstore, a library, a school, or any individual can record a conversation with an author on their smartphone and make it available on *YouTube* or other platforms on the Internet. To retain its prominent position, *Bookwatch* will have to get better. It should seek ways to serve authors and the reading community, including embracing and helping other local producers of quality programs about North Carolina books.

In the future, UNC-TV can serve its viewer by taking advantage of the storehouse of interviews by preparing supplemental materials to enhance the programs' usefulness.

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THANKS

First of all, thanks to Harriet Martin for all her help and for putting up with unruly piles of books and papers scattered through her otherwise neat house.

Thanks to all the folks at UNC-TV who have allowed the program to air for more than twenty years. Thanks to the great producers—Caroline Frances, Morgan Potts, Will Mikes, and Katy Loebrich—whose wisdom, energy, and commitment have made the program a professional gem. And it takes great people working in the studio and control room to make *Bookwatch* a great-looking and great-sounding program. I have been fortunate to have the help and friendship of so many people, including these studio professionals: Lighting Director Steve Price; Director of Photography Dan Powers; Camera Operators Alan Brown, Bob Gunter, Stephanie Rogers, and Drew Stevens; and Make-up Artist Owen Scott. Behind the scenes in the control room with Producer Katy Loebrich have been these professionals: Director/Producer Nick Fuchs; Graphics & Teleprompter Operator Steve Johnson; Technical Director Jodi Dishner; Audio Operators Henry Manitius, Nathan Shepherd, and Glenn Abbey; Media Recording Specialist Laurelin Tate; and Closed Captioning Operators Vince Jones and Dennis Beiting. And there were many others to whom I will always be grateful.

Thanks to the North Carolina literary community, authors, publishers, bookstores, libraries, teachers, literacy groups, and television viewers whose contributions and support have kept *Bookwatch* on the air.

And, heartfelt thanks to the North Caroliniana Society for recognizing the contribution of *North Carolina Bookwatch* to the “promotion and increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina’s heritage.”

In Tribute to D.G. Martin

Four people have been asked by our 2020 honoree to tell us about him. He described each of them as follows:

- Wyndham Robertson, former UNC Vice President for Communications, editor at *Fortune Magazine*, and longtime family friend;
- May Martin Bryan, my daughter, a community and school volunteer;
- Charles Frazier, North Carolina novelist and friend; and
- Grier Martin, my son, a North Carolina legislator.

Their tributes follow in this order.

WYNDHAM ROBERTSON

Because Harriet Wall's parents and mine had houses long ago on the same stretch of shoreline at Myrtle Beach, and were great friends, I have known D.G. Martin Jr. longer than any of the other presenters for this occasion. I believe we met on my front porch at Myrtle in the summer of 1966, shortly before he married Harriet, between his first and second years at Yale Law School.

The Yale LL.B. would be just another embellishment on a stunning resume. D.G. had graduated from Davidson with honors (1962) and was captain there of the first winning college basketball team ever coached by the soon-to-be hoops legend Lefty Driesell. After graduation, D.G. joined the U.S. Army and served as a Green Beret intelligence officer in the 6th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg. One of the adventures we shared some 25 years later, while working together at UNC, was a visit to the Sandhills site of a "war games" maneuver intended to test D.G.'s skills at infiltrating enemy territory.

D.G., a Democrat, famously ran for the U.S. Congress in 1984 and 1986 from a staunchly Republican district in Charlotte. While his political career was brewing, I was working overtime in Manhattan, and so oblivious to his and Harriet's lives that I sent money to his Republican opponent in the 1984 race without even knowing D.G. was in it. The election was a squeaker: D.G. lost by 321 votes, votes that doubtless would have gone uncast without my \$100 contribution. North Carolina's loss, and the nation's, would turn out to be lucky for me.

Shortly after UNC President C.D. "Dick" Spangler hired me as Vice President for Communications in 1986, bringing me home to North Carolina, D.G. lost the Congressional race a second time. Less than two years later, when the longtime

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Secretary of the University, John Kennedy, retired, Dick decided that D.G. would be the perfect hire. It took some persuading to get him to leave his Charlotte law practice and become a state bureaucrat, but D.G.'s first love is public service, and soon he was ensconced in an office close to mine. That is when our friendship began.

Whatever the job description may say, the mission of the Secretary of the University is to make the members of the UNC Board of Governors feel supported and important. That was no problem for D.G. because that is the way he treats everyone. But one small story illustrates how seriously D.G. took his responsibilities as a steward of the assets of the University, which, as Dick Spangler loved to say, belong to all the people of the state. For years before D.G. arrived, one member of the board had made a practice of visiting the stockroom of our building (now called the Spangler Center) and loading up on pencils, pens, yellow pads and binders and file folders, paper clips, stapler—the works—to take back to his office at home. The man who ran the stockroom was in no position to stop this, though it galled him, and no other officer of the University had ever had the courage to take on this powerful member of the board. Shortly after D.G. arrived, I learned from the stockroom attendant that D.G. had nixed the pilfering. Of course, I begged for all the juicy details, but D.G., as usual, was sphinxlike. My only complaint when it comes to our friendship, and it is a serious one, is that D.G. is way too discreet.

D.G. and I made a lot of road trips together while doing business for the University. One of the most memorable involved a stop at that war games site. I think this was in 1990, the year he and I were involved in the campaign for passage of a \$3.1 billion higher education bond referendum. (That turned out to be a roaring success—the referendum passed with 74% yeses—but this stop was extra-curricular.) We were on our way back to Chapel Hill from somewhere, when D.G. mentioned that we would soon be near the place where he had spent a week in a staged exercise in which his job was to locate a downed pilot in an area swarming with other soldiers playing the role of enemies. I insisted on a detour to the scene. It turned out that D.G. had made a deal with Clyde T. Auman, a peach orchard owner in West End, NC, to let the orchard be his hideout. As usual, he was sparing with details of the mission, but one thing soon became clear: D.G. had made lifelong friends with at least one couple in enemy territory. Auman and his wife Sally greeted their surprise visitor with bear hugs, and she quickly whipped up a supper of D.G.'s favorite foods, ending with a scrumptious peach pie. Though he has neither confirmed nor denied it, I suspect that one member of the Green Berets never needed his survival skills during that particular training exercise. A broader conclusion occurs as I write this: it is hard for me to imagine D.G. seeing another human as an enemy.

In 1993, D.G. moved to a new job at UNC: Vice President for Public Affairs—a polite way of saying chief lobbyist. North Carolina had long been dominated by Democrats—the governorship, the House, the Senate—so D.G., known and admired by practically every Democrat in the state, was a natural for

the job. When the legislature was in session, he and Dick negotiated some great deals for the University, and usually came home from Raleigh wearing smiles. But in 1994 the Democrats' edge in the Senate narrowed to two members, and Republicans won a majority in the House of Representatives for the first time in 100 years! Philosophically, the Republicans were seriously interested in cutting taxes, making things tough for anyone trying to get bigger appropriations.

Undaunted, D.G. looked for ways to match University needs with the prevailing new philosophy. When UNC Hospitals needed some financial help, D.G. found himself lobbying for a tax cut, but one that would exempt the hospitals from paying state sales taxes on their purchases. A tax cut, in other words, that would boost the bottom line for UNC Hospitals. Thanks to D.G.'s way of obliging folks, the provision passed.

Since he retired from the University in 1997, D.G. has engaged in a mind-boggling array of other activities. First he ran for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, losing to John Edwards in 1998. He served two six-month stints as interim vice chancellor at, respectively, UNC-Pembroke and North Carolina Central University. He was interim head of two environmental non-profits. He served for two years as President of the William Rand Kenan Jr. Fund. Simultaneously, over the last 23 years, he has produced close to 450 episodes of *BookWatch* on UNC-TV, a weekly newspaper column called *One on One* that runs in many of the papers left in the state, a WCHL radio interview program called *Who's Talking*, and a UNC Press book, *Roadside Eateries*, about places in North Carolina with good food and low prices run by likeable Tar Heels.

All these creative and intellectual activities, all the millions of questions D.G. has asked on-air, and the answers they have elicited, have been a blessing for North Carolinians. But none of this could have happened without D.G.'s enabler, Harriet Wall Martin. She was a Green Beret in his political campaigns, has been an outrageously irreverent but savvy counselor at his side, and is a creative force in her own right. Harriet tolerates and even, albeit with lots of eyerolling, encourages D.G.'s unquenchable curiosity. She has endured his attempts to learn trumpet-playing, the German language, Hebrew, haircutting, breadmaking, Spanish, theology, and the Chinese language. (This list is heavily redacted.) In the winter of 2020, D.G. was rereading the Bible, something he does periodically. The best thing about the COVID-19 shutdown was that many of us—but probably not Harriet Martin—were spared more than a few nights of conversation devoted to Leviticus.

I have always believed if a couple could agree on when to leave a party, the rest would be easy. D.G. won't go home until he has met everyone, found out his or her favorite pastime, and, for those he already knows, won them over (again) with his famous smile and his limitless desire to draw them out and convince them he would rather be with them than, say, Angelina Jolie or Barack Obama. By the time this magic has been worked, Harriet and her famous bunion are usually snugly in bed, she having developed a knack for giving partygoers with less

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endurance, like herself, the true pleasure of driving her home.

Being D.G.'s friend is a blessing with no drawbacks. He worries when I am sick, teaches me tolerance, cares what I think, helps me bartend, puts up with my family, bakes bread for me, picks up tickets I can't use and sells them on StubHub, and is my chauffeur of choice. (Many other people he knows can say the same.) I would be happy if I could zip up my jeans with the same finesse he manages while maneuvering his jampacked and capacious eight-passenger Honda Odyssey van into the miniscule parking spaces favored by the UNC Athletics Department.

Based on my own experience and personal knowledge of other cases, I can attest that few people without an MD or nursing degree have spent more time than D.G. tending to others in the emergency department at UNC Hospitals. He once picked me up at the scene of a fall and took me there, staying at my side for ten hours until my treatment ended after dawn. Friends later told me I should have called 911 after the accident, not D.G.'s number, because things would have gone better had I arrived at the ER by ambulance. I am not persuaded.

I am grateful for this opportunity to reflect on my long friendship with D.G. Martin Jr. as he receives the merited North Caroliniana Society Award.

MAY MARTIN BRYAN

"I am proud of you."

My dad has said these words to me more times than I can count.

To this day, there are very few conversations I have with my dad that don't end with him saying, "I'm so proud of you." Even when I have done something that I am not proud of myself and am doubting myself, he lets me know that he's proud. It's hard to believe that he's proud of some of the situations that I have been in, but when I take a wider view, I think I see what he's trying to say. He's trying to say that he's proud of me for sorting it out, making my way, and sometimes muddling through... but usually with my head up and looking out for ways to do it better.

And now, I say to you: I am proud of my dad.

That's the message I most want to convey to him, and to you all. To me, being proud of him means so many things. It means I want to show him off to my friends to this very day, on the cusp of my own 50th birthday. In elementary school (and maybe even in junior high and high school) I burst with pride when my dad came to have lunch with me, or came on the school outing, or came to watch me play tennis. When I was in college, working after college, and later, with my children, out and about... I was proud to be with him no matter where we were. (There have been many times when he's been mistaken for the father of my children—they look like clones of him—and I have less pridefully made sure that folks knew that I was not the much younger wife).

Y'all might know my dad from his time with the University of North Carolina system. Or you might know him from his amazing, long-running newspaper

column, or from his public television show, or from his books about Interstate and roadside eateries in North Carolina.

Of course, I'm proud of him for being an amazing advocate for our state, for our universities, for our environment, and for our public schools. I'm very proud of him for all the hundreds of columns he's written, and for the *North Carolina Bookwatch* programs he's recorded, and the radio shows on which he's conducted interesting and important interviews. And I'm a big fan of those books on roadside restaurants. But I have other reasons for being so proud. I could go on for pages, but I've been told to limit myself a little. So here are three reasons:

1. Ability to Graciously Connect

My dad greets people when he's out on a run in the same way that he might guard an opposing basketball player. He says "hello" to everyone with a big smile and a wave. If folks don't say "hey" back, he'll come at them from a different angle: "How you doin' today?" or "Good to see you!" Not many people get past his aggressive desire to connect. It's something he's done since he was a baby, according to my grandmom, who told us about how she'd put his playpen out in the front yard and he'd pull up and greet all the folks who would walk by, entertaining himself for a long time.

He draws out even the most taciturn people who seem like they will never emerge from their shells. He adjusts to their cadence, to their temperaments, and before they realize it, the previously hesitant folks are chatting away with this stranger—who is no longer a stranger!

2. Doing Hard Things

I'm proud of my dad because he's not afraid of anything. And really, I know he is afraid of some things. But what I admire even more is that he's afraid of things and STILL DOES THEM! You might think I am talking about him being a Green Beret or jumping out of airplanes. Or about how he's run marathons and is physically tough. Or about how he's not intimidated by a big-time debate, or standing up to legislators or other political bigwigs. And all of that's true. He's not afraid of those things... maybe he's afraid, but he has courage to try them.

But, what I'm talking about are difficult, scary, or sad situations. When I was fifteen my dad was involved in a tight political race. I broke more than one law and was involved in a scary, serious car accident with two friends. My parents arrived at the hospital—seemingly even-keeled, patient, unembarrassed and unphased—willing to place their trust in me in spite of my horrible mistakes.

Many years later, when I was about to pop with our first child, I called my parents in a panic to drive me to the hospital, under doctors' orders to not wait for my husband (who was twenty minutes away). D.G. drove with a heavy foot and steely determination to Durham Regional Hospital, likely thinking through roadside birthing scenarios. (We did make it to the hospital for a joyful arrival of that baby!)

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A few years later, he held my hand as we took in hard news about a troubled pregnancy that was not meant to be, and he was by my side through that grief. These situations were hard, but he never shied away—he always wanted to be right there.

And with his grandchildren... . He was always the first to volunteer to change the very stinky diapers, to perform the very messy feedings, to walk the very fussy babies for hours to get them to sleep. These are things that strike fear in the hearts of many grandparents, but not D.G. He does not hesitate to drop what he's doing to come to be with his grandchildren, even now that they are no longer stinky babies but slightly less stinky teens!

3. Creative Problem-Solving

I was in 7th grade when I realized I was not going to be a mathematician. While that was no real loss to me, I still had to wrestle with math. In typical fourteen-year-old fashion, I complained about why I needed to take these math classes. I still remember my dad patiently explaining that even if I was not going to study math, understanding how to approach problems and developing creative strategies would serve me well in all areas of life, whether math-related or not.

If you know my dad, you know he's rarely without a beat-up spiral notebook in his back pocket. It's full of ideas, full of things he does not want to forget, full of lists, full of problems to solve. He's insatiable in his desire to learn most anything—history, genealogy (his own or yours!), and languages (French, German, Chinese, and Spanish, to name a few). There are stacks and stacks of newspapers, books, encyclopedias, and magazines by my dad's bed (ask my mom, Harriet), on many surfaces of my parents' home, and in my dad's car. He's never without something to read or to learn.

I remember being awed at a very young age watching my dad do endless (I wonder now how many it really was) push-ups and sit-ups on his bedroom floor, often with my brother or me on his back, giggling at the fun game. And then, minutes later, he was sitting on a chair in the same room and stitching up a hole in a sock before heading into his office for hours. To me, the juxtaposition of the push-ups and the sock-stitching is a classic D.G. vignette—the Renaissance Dad/Man, undaunted by a challenging problem, ready to attack it with gusto and creativity.

Thank you for letting me share my pride in my daddy with you. I look forward to when we can celebrate together in person.

THE SPIRAL NOTEBOOK
OR
NOTES IN APPRECIATION OF D.G. MARTIN

CHARLES FRAZIER

How to age well? F. Scott Fitzgerald—and I’m going on memory, not research—wrote something to the effect that the key to aging well is not losing interest. I think that was around the time of his sad, drunken fortieth birthday at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. From my current perspective, the opinion of a shiny new forty-year-old on aging doesn’t carry a huge weight of authority, but there is something in Fitzgerald’s comment, drunken or not, that’s worth considering. And it relates very closely to why, when I come down to Chapel Hill and hang out with D.G., or when he comes to Asheville, or when we meet somewhere in between to do a little literary fundraising, I always go home feeling energized, recharged, invigorated, hopeful.

The object that most represents D.G. and his “not losing interest” to me is his notebook. Don’t picture a fancy leather writer’s notebook. I’ve got one of those—had it for a quarter of a century—and it always sits on my desk because it’s too pretty and precious to risk taking it out of the house where it might get rained on. For D.G., think about the notebook you carried to school in the fifth grade—a big full-sized spiral-bound notebook with a primary color pasteboard cover. D.G. folds his in half vertically and stuffs it in the back pocket of his pants. He’s constantly pulling it out to jot something down. Noting the title and author of an article in some literary quarterly, asking an expert in the field what the single best book on the impeachment process is, jotting the title and publisher of a first novel by a North Carolina writer, or the name of a really good barbecue or seafood or meat-and-three restaurant within a few miles of one of North Carolina’s interstate highways. His notebooks absorb all that range of interest and a whole lot more, and I hope he has boxes full of them saved for the archives. Generations of those wire spirals must have wrecked the hip pockets of a hundred pairs of pants.

It says a great deal to me that I had known D.G. for quite a while before I learned that he played on Lefty Driesell’s basketball team at Davidson or that he had been a Green Beret. I’d never Googled D.G. until now, and I discovered on Wikipedia that he “completed several marathons.” Fair to say, nearly everybody I’ve ever known would lead with some or all of that stuff. But for D.G. what’s behind seems a lot less interesting than what’s now and what’s ahead. Forward motion is at the very core of Fitzgerald’s comment on aging, the increasingly difficult struggle against the strong backward riptide of time, how to find a way to swim forward rather than be pulled backward and downward.

Part of that forward motion is staying interested in other people, and I’ll let one example stand for many. I’ve had several meals with D.G. at a barbecue

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place in Asheville called Twelve Bones. The first couple of times, the business was in a small concrete block building beside the French Broad River. The owners, a married couple named Bryan and Angela, had been very successful there. The Obamas, on a vacation weekend in Asheville during his presidency, had stood in the long line to order like everyone else, and he'd already been there before he was President. The building, though, was in the way of a road project and was set to be demolished. Bryan's father had always lived in North Carolina, and Angela's father had escaped from North Korea as a young man. They'd met in California and had come back to his home state and were quintessential American optimists, believing their business difficulty would work out for the best. For quite a while afterwards—years, in fact—D.G. would ask me how they were doing, whether the new place was working for them. And we've since gone back for lunch at their new, thriving location, and they sat at the picnic table and told D.G. all about their plans for the future.

I've seen it over and over. People want to show D.G. a part of their lives because they immediately sense that he's interested. He genuinely wants to know how you started your business or got the idea for your book or where you grew up and who your people were and where you see yourself in ten years. A B&B owner wants him to look out the upstairs bedroom window at an old grave that's maybe a little haunted. They want to tell him where the recipe for their special lemon pie came from. They're happy for him to lope through their kitchen and talk to their customers because he's so clearly curious about their lives.

All of those elements of empathy and energy are parts of what has made *North Carolina Bookwatch* an institution on North Carolina public TV. When North Carolina writers get together the conversation often turns to a *Bookwatch* appearance and what it meant to them, the readers it brought to their work, and the feeling of validation it provided. And writers also talk about the unexpected questions that may seem to arrive out of left field, at least if what you've prepared for are the same five questions nearly every media outlet will ask about your book. In contrast, a high proportion of D.G.'s questions are the pure product of a curious, engaged reader, not a cog in the publicity machine. I always advise younger writers to roll with it, be ready to get off their script and just have a conversation.

Having been on *Bookwatch* several times over the years and having a sense of what kind of work a single episode involves—and also being used to working alone in a dimly lit room by myself, writing a book like an elephant dying or a cat giving birth, going to the elephant graveyard or up under the house and doing it alone—I'm overwhelmed with the mass of reading and thinking and planning and engagement the show requires. Exhausting to think about the coordinating with other people, all those emails. D.G. might be too modest to agree with this statement, but I'm not alone in thinking his work on *Bookwatch* for over two decades has been a great gift to the literary culture of our state. He has been an invaluable force in introducing a couple of generations of North Carolina writers to an audience of book readers.

Finally, high among my reasons for admiring D.G. are that he's always ready to laugh, especially at himself, and that he had the sense to marry Harriet. Somebody should follow her around and write down her funniest, driest, wisest lines. I've already stolen a few of them myself.

GRIER MARTIN

The North Caroliniana Society exists, in part, “to promote increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina’s heritage”. I am a bit puzzled, then, why you are bestowing the North Caroliniana Society Award upon someone who was not even born in the Old North State. That’s right, I am here to tell the entire state that D.G. Martin was born in the state of Georgia, and not even in one of the parts of the Peach State near the border with North Carolina. So, how does a guy who didn’t even live in our state until he was almost a teenager end up being worthy of such a wonderful honor so tied to North Carolina?

As a child I remember reading through Dad’s old Army Field Manuals from his Fort Bragg days. As my mother will tell you, Dad never throws away anything. He has the standard collection of old *National Geographics* beloved of all pack rats, and adds on top of them nearly every book he’s ever read—plus a few hundred he intends to read. Sometime. In any case, these old Army tomes I mentioned covered a variety of topics, both fascinating and routine. One of the seemingly duller chapters was on the construction of a proper foxhole. The details of proper shape, digging methods, and tools aren’t important here. But, you need to know that a foxhole is something a soldier sometimes starts building when occupying new ground. Sometimes, though, as their unit succeeds another unit in the defense, a soldier finds a foxhole already dug and ready to inhabit.

Now, you might think that a soldier stumbling on a prepared foxhole is the luckiest soldier in the Army, because they will soon be napping instead of digging. And, for some soldiers, this is true. But, the underlying ethic of proper foxhole construction is that a foxhole is *never* done, that a foxhole must be continuously improved. Is your foxhole four feet deep? Make it five. No overhead cover? Put some logs overhead. No grenade sump? Dig one.

I think for Dad, moving to North Carolina was akin to being the soldier who finds a foxhole that has already been constructed. Dad would have seen that North Carolina had fine universities, a beautiful environment, and an active economy. The temptation must have existed to set up residence in this wonderful place and relax, just as some soldiers might do in a foxhole built by someone else.

But not for this soldier. Upon returning to North Carolina after law school, Dad sized up North Carolina just as we would have sized up a foxhole. Seeing the strengths noted earlier, he would have also seen serious deficiencies. Just as a well-dug foxhole can still have a fatal lack of camouflage, our fine state has many serious deficiencies: racial prejudice, economic inequality, a growing urban-rural divide, and vital open spaces being lost.

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So, Dad started digging. He raised our family in a mixed-race church located in a low-wealth neighborhood and worked with groups that promoted racial and religious understanding. He worked for the University of North Carolina system, both in General Administration and on the campuses of both HBCUs and rural universities. He led groups devoted to preserving safe drinking water and open land. And, he soaked up our state's culture and helped spread it—from the mountains to the sea—in books, in newspapers, and on television.

One of the things that I admire most about Dad is the way he has led others to move North Carolina forward. He is not the kind of soldier who spends his time screaming instructions to other soldiers on how to build their foxholes. Instead, he lets his foxhole-building set an example for others to follow. And, he's always been ready to take up his shovel to help his neighbors build their own foxholes when needed.

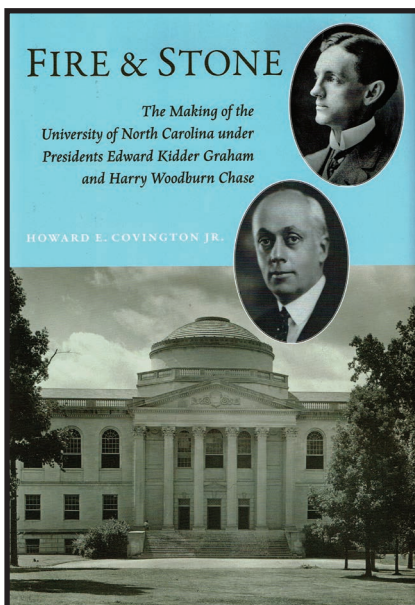
Another ethic of foxhole improvement is knowing that you aren't going to be residing there forever. Just as you fell in and lived in a foxhole built by someone else, the improvements you make to the foxhole will benefit those who come after you. But, a good soldier keeps building up the foxhole until the day that orders come to move out. I'm pretty sure that Dad has no plans to leave us anytime soon. But, men and women like him keep working to make their home a better place for everyone, including generations to come, right up until the day they do.

Presentation of the 2019 North Caroliniana Society Book Award

HOWARD E. COVINGTON JR.



Howard Covington



Fire & Stone

This year the North Caroliniana Book Award will be awarded virtually to Howard Covington, author of *Fire and Stone: The Making of the University of North Carolina under Presidents Edward Kidder Graham and Harry Woodburn Chase*.

About the Award

DANNYE ROMINE POWELL

Each year since 2003, the North Caroliniana Society has presented an award for the book published during the previous year “that captures the essence of North Carolina by contributing powerfully to an understanding of the state.” Competition for this award is always keen. This year was no exception.

Typically, the selection committee—David Bruton, Jeff Crow and I—meet in late March at Someday Farm, near Carthage, the lovely home of David and Frieda Bruton. Here, we are served a sumptuous, homecooked meal of Southern delicacies unsurpassed this side of heaven.

This year, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we missed that lovely meal and the fellowship that also nourishes us. This year’s committee—Jeff Crow, Mike Hill and I—met via email to discuss the books. If anyone had anything wonderful to eat, it went unmentioned.

What was mentioned—and mentioned with great enthusiasm—was our overriding preference for one book as the winner of this year’s award. And that is Howard Covington’s *Fire and Stone: The Making of the University of North Carolina under Presidents Edward Kidder Graham and Harry Woodburn Chase*, published by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library, 2018.

The fascinating story of the two presidents—one fire, one stone—brings vividly onto stage Edward Kidder Graham (fire), a Southerner with an honorary degree and a gift for oration, who died at 42 in the flu epidemic of 1918, and his successor Harry Woodburn Chase (stone), a New Englander with advanced degrees, a man more comfortable with the written than the spoken word.

“If one man had not followed the other,” according to John Langdale of the Southern Historical Association, “the university would have been a different place. Taken together, the presidencies of Graham and Chase turned a relatively small institution founded in the liberal arts into an institution worthy of its name, the University of North Carolina.”

Here’s what Committee Member Jeff Crow said: *“This book was a revelation to me. I know Howard’s previous work, but this book surprised and delighted me. I approached it with dread. Who wants to read about fifteen years of the university’s history in 450 pages? Yet the book tells a much larger story about North Carolina and many of its key players in politics, education, the economy and the cultural life. (I’ll overlook his digs at Duke.)”*

And Committee Member Mike Hill: *“Howard is in a category by himself as a prolific freelance writer; that is, a writer for hire with several corporate histories and a major book on Terry Sanford to his credit. This UNC book is part of a series. The research here is in-depth, and the writing is workmanlike. Oddly enough, it is now*

somewhat timely due to E.K. Graham's death from the Spanish flu."

As for my own vote: "My former Charlotte Observer colleague stunned me. I had no idea he'd be able to pull me into this heavy (in weight) volume that I had eyed so skeptically. The book isn't exactly gossipy. No. But Howard manages to make it so intimate, so personal—and he writes with such winning authority—that I relaxed and learned about so many people I'd been hearing about for the last half century, including Mrs. C.C. Hook (the wife of the late Charlotte architect)."

Congratulations, Howard. You have given us, the University of North Carolina and this state the gift of your research and your compelling narrative. This book will enlighten thousands of our citizens for decades to come.

About the Book

Just over a century ago the consequences of a pandemic reshaped the future of the University of North Carolina. President Edward Kidder Graham, a popular and talented leader, succumbed to what was called the Spanish Flu. He died within a matter of days of falling ill in mid-October 1918. The University's trustees immediately tapped Marvin H. Stacy, the Dean of the Faculty, to serve in his stead. He died three months later of the same ailment. Drafted into the job as a placeholder early in 1919, Harry Woodburn Chase, a virtual unknown that few took seriously as a replacement for Graham, was charged with completing the academic year as acting president until a successor could be chosen in June.

Chase was subsequently elected as president at a session whose outcome was influenced at the last hour by a legal opinion disqualifying the leading candidates. Despite the curious circumstances, Chase clearly had sufficient academic stature to qualify for the job. He was the first president of the University with an earned Ph.D. It was in a new science of the mind called psychology. (When Sigmund Freud made his first visit to the United States to lecture at Clark University, where Chase was a graduate student, he was selected to translate Freud's sessions for a prestigious journal.) However, unlike all his successors save one, the institution's first president, Joseph Caldwell, Chase was neither a Southerner nor a Presbyterian, and was probably a Republican.

Taken separately, the Graham and Chase administrations would have been transformative. Graham inspired a generation of young men, including his own cousin and future UNC President, Frank Porter Graham, to service to the state and to their communities. Chase brought to the campus an academic rigor, and appreciation for the true meaning of what a university should be. Taken together and their fifteen-plus years of combined work, beginning with Graham's election in 1914 to Chase's departure in 1930, they elevated the University from what amounted to sleepy liberal arts college to the ranks of major American universities. *Fire and Stone* tells that story.

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The narrative plays out against the backdrop of Graham's vision for UNC as "the University of the People," its boundaries coterminous with the borders of the state, at a time when the University was struggling for state support and public appreciation. Marking Chase's years was expansion of all dimensions of the campus, physically and academically. He added the first women to the faculty and expanded the offerings in business, journalism, and social sciences to meet the demands of a student body that tripled in size after World War I. Chase's reputation reached national proportions following his defense of academic freedom in 1925 when the state legislature was poised to say what could and could not be taught.

All of the successors of E.K. Graham and Harry W. Chase in the twentieth century built upon their work in shaping the future of the University of North Carolina.

This book is the second in a series of biographies about the presidents of the University and of the chancellors of the Chapel Hill campus, a project of the UNC-Chapel Hill Library that is endowed by the estate of Gladys Hall Coates. The Coates fund also underwrote the library's publication of a biography of her husband, Albert Coates, a professor of law at the University and the founder of the school's Institute of Government. It is titled *The Good Government Man: Albert Coates and the Early Years of the Institute of Government* and also was written by Howard E. Covington Jr.

About the Author

Mr. Covington is native of Concord, N.C., and a 1965 graduate of the University of Florida. He was a University Fellow of the American Political Science Association at the University of Michigan in 1973. He lives in Greensboro, N.C., where he writes history and biography.

An early newspaper career as reporter and editor began in Florida and included more than a dozen years at North Carolina's *Charlotte Observer* where he created and co-wrote a series of articles on occupational health that in 1981 won, among other national awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service.

Over the last forty years, he has written more than twenty-five works of history and biography. Among his subjects is former Governor and U.S. Senator Terry Sanford, a title published by Duke University Press in 1999. He is the co-author of *The Story of NationsBank: Changing the Face of American Banking*, which was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1993.

Favored by Fortune is a four-generation biography of the Hill family of Durham, N.C. It was published in 2004 by the UNC-Chapel Hill Library, and that same year received the Old North State Award from the North Carolina Literary and

Historical Association for best nonfiction work by a North Carolina author.

His book about the private preservation of Biltmore Estate, *Lady On The Hill*, was published by John F. Wiley & Sons in 2006. It is now in its third printing.

A twentieth-century history of Greensboro by Howard Covington, *Once Upon A City*, was published in 2008 by the Greensboro Historical Museum.

In 2010, the UNC-Chapel Hill Library published *The Good Government Man*, a biography of Albert Coates, the founder of the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. That was followed in 2018 with *Fire and Stone*, a biography of UNC presidents E.K. Graham and Harry Chase, who were responsible for the emergence of the University as a major academic institution in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

He is also the author of a 2013 biography of Henry Frye, the first African American Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, and of a history of Linville Resorts in the mountains of North Carolina, published on the occasion of its 125th anniversary in 1992.

Notes:



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