

# FOCUS online

NCSU LIBRARIES  
VOLUME 24 NO. 1  
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## PART V FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

LEE SMITH CHARMS  
SPRING DINNER AUDIENCE

SPRING DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

JOHN BALABAN WILL HIGHLIGHT  
THE 2003 FALL LUNCHEON

2003-2004 NEW LIFE MEMBERS

CYMA RUBIN RECEIVES  
HONORARY DOCTORATE

IN MEMORIAM  
LIFE MEMBERS OF THE  
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VOLUME 24 NO. 1, PART I  
LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 24 NO. 1, PART II  
LIBRARY SEMINARS AND EVENTS

VOLUME 24 NO. 1, PART III  
NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL  
APRIL-AUGUST 2003

VOLUME 24 NO. 1, PART IV  
LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT



TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

*Images from The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment are unpacked in preparation for mounting the exhibition in the D. H. Hill Library.*

### OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

SCHOLARLY  
COMMUNICATION CENTER

Photographs by Sheri D. Thomas, NCSU, unless otherwise noted.

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# Friends of the Library News

By Mary Kate Keith

## Lee Smith Charms Spring Dinner Audience

Lee Smith, always a delight, returned to NC State to speak at the Friends of the Library's annual Spring Dinner on April 30, 2003. Smith entertained the audience by reading passages from her latest book, *The Last Girls*, published in September 2002. The story centers on four college roommates who reunite after many years to scatter the ashes of a fifth friend. While on a Mississippi riverboat, they rekindle their friendships and offer humorous and insightful reflections on their life journeys.

Lee Smith is a retired professor from the NC State Department of English. She is the author of many books, including the best-selling novels *Oral History* and *Fair and Tender Ladies*, and the collections *Me and My Baby View the Eclipse* and *News of the Spirit*, both New York Times Notable Books. Her awards include the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award and the 1999 Academy Award for fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. *The Last Girls* was chosen as the number one pick for September and October 2002 by "Book Sense 76" and was a finalist for the 2003 Southeastern Booksellers Association Award for fiction.

Assad Meymandi, president of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, hosted the Spring Dinner, and NC State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox greeted the audience. Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of Libraries, welcomed



TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES

Writer Lee Smith signs copies of her book *The Last Girls*.

seven new life members and announced the establishment of four new library endowments and four new incubator endowments. Smith's editor, Shannon Ravenel of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, delivered an eloquent introduction of Smith. The Friends of the Library gives special thanks to Wyndham Robertson and Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill for donations in support of the Spring Dinner. ❖

## *Spring Dinner Highlights*



TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

*[Left to right] Good friends and fellow alumnae of Hollins University Shannon Ravenel (Algonquin Books), Lee Smith, and Friends' board member Wyndham Robertson all attended the Spring Dinner.*



*[Left to right] FOL President Assad Meymandi presents a life member certificate to Karl and Gale Bowman during Spring Dinner festivities.*



*[Left to right] Lee Smith and Chancellor Marye Anne Fox.*

## President's Column

By Assad Meymandi  
President, Friends of the Library  
Board of Directors

### Textonics: Democratizing Knowledge

One of the most exciting events of the twenty-first century, which holds much promise for the future of this country and the world, is textonics. The first half of the twentieth century saw many inventions including the flight of the Wright brothers, Salk vaccine, and the discovery of antibiotics. The second half of the century witnessed the stunning and most important discovery in the ten-thousand-year history of Neolithic man, namely DNA, in February 1953. Its discoverers—James Watson of America and Francis Crick of Great Britain—were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1962.

The twenty-first century harbors the possibility of offering mankind the most important undertaking of textonics. It is digitizing the literature of the world and making it available to every child, even in the most remote villages in all corners of the world. Just think, it will bring the content of the world's libraries to students everywhere. One is reminded of Al Gore's comment several years ago that we should strive to bring the content of the Library of Congress to every student in America. Librarian of Congress James Billington, in several commentaries, emphasized the staggering problem of copyright laws, just to mention one drawback. But over the past several years, an enormous amount of progress has been made to overcome these barriers. There are a number of incentives in the form of awards created by academic centers and devoted to the fostering and encouragement of rapid development of this field. Among these awards are the A. R. Zipf Award and, for the past two years, the Richard Lyman Award given by the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Jerome McGann, chair of the Department of Textonics at the University of Virginia, received the 2002 Lyman Award. The 2003 Lyman Award winner is Roy Rosenzweig of the College of Arts and Sciences, George Mason University. The award ceremonies were held in the Great Hall of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSAD MEYMANDI.

Library of Congress, an elegant venue. Those of us privileged to attend were witness to an exciting event not dissimilar to the first flight of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The fields of genomics, which has produced five Nobel Prize winners, and of proteomics, with its three Nobel Prize winners, are merging with the field of textonics (no Noble Prize yet) and asymptotically approaching the holy grail of artificial intelligence.

One of the best-kept secrets of NC State is its program of textonics. This is a labor intensive initiative of our own NCSU Libraries to digitize and preserve world literature. Recently, I spent two afternoons at the British Library, conferring with its director and the person in charge of information technology and digitization. I can tell you that we are far ahead of the United Kingdom. I am also in touch with the University of Paris and the Sorbonne. They, too, are nowhere near where NCSU and its program of digitization now stand. We applaud the leadership of Susan Nutter, her able staff, and the leadership of Chancellor Marye Anne Fox. Without hubris, all of us should be proud of NC State.

*continued on page 5*

## New FOL Board Members

Now I want to welcome and introduce the newest members of the Board of Directors. Each brings a unique perspective and wealth of experience that will benefit the board's work. Those whose pictures do not appear in this issue will be featured in the next issue of *Focus*.

**Sory Bowers** is a local arts advocate in Raleigh. She and her husband Henry, vice chancellor emeritus of student affairs at NC State, established an Incubator Endowment to support the visual arts collections in the library.

**Alex De Grand** has been a professor with the Department of History at NC State since 1986. He is currently the president of the Society for Italian Historical Studies. He and his wife Linda have started an Incubator Endowment to support the library.

**Cindy Joseph** works for a family owned business, the Joseph Agency. She and her husband Fred are enthusiastic Wolfpack supporters. She is an avid community volunteer and is from Greensboro.

**Charlotte Martin** is active in many Raleigh-area organizations such as the North Carolina Symphony, Carolina Ballet, White Memorial Church, and the YMCA. She and her husband Leroy established the Leroy and Charlotte Martin Foundation.

**Hayne Palmour** is a professor emeritus of materials science and engineering who lives in Raleigh. He is currently completing one term on the board and has been asked to serve another term. He and his wife Barbara have funded an endowment for the library.

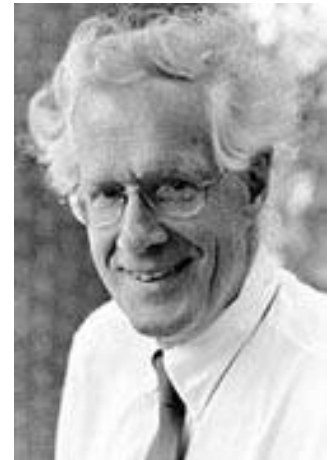
**Charles Sedberry** is a lawyer from Raleigh who works with the law firm Joslin, Sedberry & Lamkin. He is a 1959 NC State chemical engineering graduate.

**Jane Warren** is a 1968 graduate of NC State with a degree in math education. She taught math and computers for nineteen years. She is currently the office manager and bookkeeper for the family's restaurant management business in Greensboro. Her husband Steve is also an NC State alumnus and current member of the NC State Board of Trustees. They are avid Wolfpack fans.



*Sory Bowers.*

*Alex De Grand.*



*Charles Sedberry.*

COURTESY OF CHARLES SEDBERRY.



*Cindy Joseph.*

COURTESY OF CINDY JOSEPH.

## John Balaban Will Highlight the 2003 Fall Luncheon

John Balaban, NC State's poet-in-residence and professor of English in the Creative Writing Program, is the keynote speaker for the Friends of the Library's Fall Luncheon on November 12, 2003. His talk, entitled "Poetry Passports," will focus on his poetry and his award-winning translations of Vietnamese poetry.

In April 2003 Balaban received a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. During the Fellowship year Balaban will continue to work on his poetry. He also plans to begin a new English translation of Nyugen Du's classic *The Tale of Kieu*, the early-nineteenth-century novel-in-verse that is the hallmark of Vietnamese poetry. Balaban was also selected as the 2001–2004 Phi Kappa Phi National Artist.

The fifteenth annual North Carolina State University Libraries Faculty Award will be presented during the Fall Luncheon. This award is given to an NC State faculty member who has contributed consistently or notably to the operation and development of the Libraries.



COROLLA CLIFT, 2002.

*John Balaban.*

The luncheon begins at 12:00 P.M. at NC State's McKimmon Center. For ticket information, please call the Friends of the Library at (919) 515-2841. ❖

## 2002–2003 New Life Members

Harry A. Allen, Jr.

Karl F. and Gale G. Bowman

Scott and Mary Dell Chilton

Sigma Xi

John and Susan Stewart

Alan and Beth Tonelli



ROGER WINSTEAD, NCSU

*Left to right] Cyma Rubin and NC State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox at the 2003 spring commencement exercises where Rubin received an honorary doctorate from the university.*

### Cyma Rubin Receives Honorary Doctorate

Cyma Rubin, who graduated from NC State with a degree in textile management, received an honorary doctorate of fine arts at the commencement exercises on May 17, 2003, for her outstanding work in the arts. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library at NC State.

Rubin is an Emmy and Tony Award-winning producer, director, and writer. She produced and directed “Moment of Impact: Stories of the Pulitzer Prize Photographs,” a television documentary examining six Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs. The documentary, which aired on Turner Network Television, won the 1999 Emmy award for best documentary. She also is curator of the exhibition *The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment*, which is being shown at the D. H. Hill Library through December 13, 2003. Rubin wrote the exhibit catalog.

Rubin’s professional credits are numerous. Her first Broadway show, *No, No, Nanette*, won four Tony Awards. She went on to produce other musicals that were nominated for a total of eleven Tony Awards. She has worked as a film producer, one of which, *Greaser’s Palace*, won the London Film Festival Award. She produced “A Few Days in Weasel Creek” and “Welcome Home, Bobby” for CBS Television. Other productions include work for the Houston Grand Opera, the American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Argentino, and the New York Boys Choir. She was the cultural producer for Nippon Television International for nine years.

Rubin is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Overseas Press Club, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Friends of the New York Public Library, and several philanthropic organizations. She also lectures at New York University. ❖

## In Memoriam

### Life Members of the Friends of the Library

**Leslie N. Boney Jr.** died on June 19, 2003. Boney, a native of Wilmington, North Carolina, graduated from NC State in 1940 with a degree in architectural engineering. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, earning the rank of major. After his service, he returned to Wilmington and began his lifelong career in architecture with the family firm. Boney was instrumental in building the NCSU Libraries' archives of architectural drawings, having donated his own firm's drawings to the library's collections. These drawings are now a major resource in documenting the state's architecture. Boney is survived by his wife, Lillian; two daughters, Emmett Boney Haywood and Mary Boney Denison; a son, Leslie N. Boney III; and several grandchildren.

**Virginia Brown Lovvorn**, of Raleigh, died on June 7, 2003. Lovvorn, who graduated with honors from Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, was active in many

church and civic organizations, among them being Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and the NC State University Women's Club. She is survived by her husband, Roy Lovvorn, professor emeritus of crop science at NC State; three sons, Larry, Lee, and Brian; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial donations can be sent to the Roy and Virginia Lovvorn Endowment with the NCSU Libraries.

**Ruth Chamber Noggle**, of Raleigh, died on June 5, 2003. Noggle held a master's degree in English from Southern Methodist University and enjoyed her volunteer work of teaching English to families of foreign students at NC State. She was also a member of the League of Women Voters, the Pro and Con Book Club, and NC State's Friends of the Library. She is survived by her husband, Glenn R. Noggle, professor emeritus of botany at NC State; a daughter, Jean Harris; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ❖





*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>



FOL  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

✓ *2003 Fall Luncheon*

**November 12, 2003**

John Balaban, NC State Poet-in-Residence and professor of English, will discuss "Poetry Passports." See page 24 for details.

✓ *2004 North Carolina Literary Festival*    **April 16–18, 2004**

Readings and discussions by nationally recognized southern authors

[www.lib.ncsu.edu/nclitfest2004](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/nclitfest2004)