

F O C U S online

NCSU LIBRARIES
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PART V FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

ELAINE ORR RECALLS GROWING UP
IN NIGERIA

NEW BOARD MEMBER

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS PHOTO

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Architectural rendering of future Reading Room provided by the architectural firm of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd.

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Friends of the Library News

By Mary Kate Keith



*Elaine Orr signed copies of her book *Gods of Noonday* for guests at the 2004 Fall Luncheon.*

Elaine Orr Recalls Growing Up in Nigeria

Elaine Orr, NC State professor of English, presented “Kindred, Stranger: A Nigerian/American Autobiography” to guests at the Friends of the Library’s annual Fall Luncheon on November 10, 2004. Her talk was based on her book *Gods of Noonday, A White Girl’s African Life*, which described her childhood in Nigeria in the 1950s and 1960s when her parents worked there as missionaries.

Reading descriptive passages from her book, Orr recalled in vivid detail her childhood near the Niger

River, a place she considered home. Through Orr’s lyrical voice and stunning descriptions, the audience experienced the sights, smells, and sounds of the Nigeria of her youth. Orr left Nigeria at age sixteen to complete her education in the United States—a place where she felt like a stranger. As an adult, she returned to Nigeria and once again experienced a sense of homecoming.

Orr majored in art at Campbellsville University in Kentucky and earned an M.A. in English from the University of Louisville. In 1985 she received a

Ph.D in literature and theology from Emory University. At NC State University, Orr teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in American, world, and contemporary literature, as well as women's studies and creative nonfiction.

Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and director of Libraries, presented the sixteenth NCSU Libraries

Faculty Award to Richard H. Bernhard (NCSU College of Engineering) during the Fall Luncheon. For more on the Faculty Award winner, see "Richard H. Bernhard Selected as 2004 NCSU Libraries Faculty Award Winner," in the "Library News" section of the *Focus Online*. ❖

New Board Member

Anna Ball Hodge will serve a five-year term on the Friends' Board of Directors. Hodge, a resident of Raleigh, received a B.A. in education from UNC-Chapel Hill and holds a C.T.C. professional designation in the travel industry. She is the president-elect of the PTSA at Broughton High School in Raleigh and has been a leader in numerous community organizations including Moms in Touch International, Christ Episcopal Church, and the Tammy Lynn Center. She is married to Joe Hodge of Hodge & Kittrell Realtors, and they have three daughters. Her grandfather, Charles D. "Zack" Arthur, was an NC State alumnus and Raleigh businessman. The Charles D. "Zack" Arthur Memorial Endowment was established at the NCSU Libraries in 1992 by friends and family to honor the two things he loved so much, NC State and books. ❖



Friends of the Library Board of Directors



[Left to right]

Seated: Maryann Bitzer, Cyma Rubin (vice president), Suzanne Purrington (president), Nagela Moaddeb (University Graduate Student Association representative).

Second row: Sory Bowers, Susan K. Nutter (vice provost and director of Libraries), Hayne Palmour III, Helen Evans, Assad Meymandi (immediate past president), Jane Warren, Cindy Joseph, and Charleen Clark.

Back row: Charles Sedberry, Jim Mulvey (director of Library Development), John Stewart, Bobby Purcell, W. Trent Ragland III, and Anna Ball Hodge.

Not pictured: Robert Bashford, Kaye Gibbons, Alexander De Grand, James Fulghum III, Charles Leffler, Charlotte Martin, Linda Murphy, Wyndham Robertson, Emma Garnett Satterfield, Ronald Spivey, Brenda Wilson, and Terry Wood (University Advancement).



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/>