More than 900 schoolchildren across North Carolina recently participated in an art contest for the North Carolina Literary Festival, which will be held on the NC State campus from April 15 through 28, 2004. Winners will have their artwork developed into bookmarks and posters for the festival. Read more in Focus, volume 24 no. 2, Part II, Library Seminars and Events.
John Balaban’s Journey in Poems

John Balaban, NC State University’s poet-in-residence and professor of English, presented “Poetry Passports” to guests at the Friends of the Library’s annual Fall Luncheon on November 12, 2003. Balaban read several of his poems as well as his translations of other poems that reflected his unique observations of people and circumstances. He conveyed the idea that poetry has the ability to cross borders to speak to all cultures about universal themes common to all people.

In his latest book, *Ca Dao Viet Nam: Vietnamese Folk Poetry*, Balaban translates poetry in the ca dao (pronounced ka zow) tradition. Ca dao, which means songs and ballads, were sung without musical accompaniment in the Vietnamese countryside for generations and served as a means to preserve the nation’s heritage. Balaban played a ballad he recorded while in Vietnam in the 1970s.

Balaban’s first book of Vietnamese poems was *Spring Essence: The Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong*, published in 2000. Balaban translated poems written in Nom, an ancient form of writing that the Vietnamese used for 1,000 years before switching to a Western Roman alphabet.

Balaban is the author of twelve books of poetry and prose, including four volumes that together have won The Academy of American Poets’ Lamont Prize, a National Poetry Series Selection, and two nominations for the National Book Award. His *Locusts at the Edge of Summer: New and Selected Poems* won the 1998 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. He was named the 2001–04 National Artist for the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. In 2003 he received a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.

During the Fall Luncheon, Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and director of Libraries, presented the fifteenth annual NCSU Libraries Faculty Award to Karl F. Bowman from the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine.
Welcome the Newest Members of the Friends

The following individuals joined the Friends of the Library between July 1 and October 24, 2003. The NCSU Libraries is delighted to welcome them into the Friends.

Peggy C. Anderson
Kristin A. Antelman
Don Azevedo
Mohammed Bakir
David J. Bamford
Peter G. Bladen
Patrick Blalock
Evelyn C. Brown
Scott T. Bublitz
John R. Buchanan Jr.
Kirk P. Bumgarner
Sam G. Burgiss
David P. Caccamo
Seth B. Carruthers
Chimerix, Inc.
Charles H. Claus Jr.
George W. Daniel
Jeffrey K. Donahue
Andrew Dummer
Laura C. Edwards
Wendy Elliott
Xiang Fan
Greta L. Ferkel
Paul B. Forrest
Betty Fried
Steven G. Goodridge
Amanda Guffey
Henkel Technologies
Arthur E. Hohnsbehn
William C. Hooks
Cathy McCabe Hoyle
Fulvio A. Iachetta
Michael J. Jamiołkowska
Elizabeth Johnson
Stuart T. Jones
Cindy and Fred Joseph
John D. Kelly
Jan H. Kemp
Grant B. Kenion
Elizabeth Kerr

Colleen E. Lennon
Curt L. Lunchick
Natasha Mack
Donald J. Makus
Keith Markland
Jamie L. Massengill
John McAuley
Cynthia McQueen
Donald I. McRee
Claudius Miller III
Nicholas J. Moga
Robert Moore
Amin Ali Nomeir
Gregory A. O’Neill
Mark E. Oxley
Laura Pamport
Jeffrey L. Paschke
Rolf G. Poluha
James R. Powell Jr.
Ray L. Ramey
William B. Randle
Lucille Reckleff
Thomas C. Roddy
Matthew Roos
Lee S. Self
Youngwon Shin
Barbara Shumannfangled
James D. Skean Jr.
Russell Teasley
Stephen P. Vanderhoof
Robert C. Viduya
Brian D. Wall
David W. Warren
Jane and Steve Warren
Gretchen Westerhoff
Reid Whiteside
Charles O. Woody Jr.
Angela P. Wooten
Fai Yao
Nael N. Zaki
Meet Two New Members of the Friends of the Library Board

Two of the newest members of the Board of Directors were not pictured in the last issue of the *Focus*, volume 24.1. The Friends is pleased to introduce them to its members at this time.

**Hayne Palmour** is an NC State 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.

**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.
2003–2004 Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Front row, seated, left to right:  

Middle row, left to right:  
Linda Murphy, Friends of the Library Director Mary Kate Keith, University Graduate Student Association Representative Negala Moaddeb, Immediate Past President Lawrence Apple, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter, President Assad Meymandi, Vice President Suzanne Purrington, Wyndham Robertson, Maryann Bitzer.

Back row, left to right:  

Not pictured:  
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/