For me Chapel Hill conjures up two very distinct memories: the irreplaceable Intimate Bookshop with its creaky wooden floor, and the band of young adults with their black clothing, rainbow-hued hair, and skateboards who claimed the area in front of the Franklin Street Post Office as their own. Both memories make me wistful for my graduate school days. In *27 Views of Chapel Hill: A Southern University Town in Prose & Poetry*, Eno Publishers’ follow-up to the award-winning *27 Views of Hillsborough*, twenty-nine authors explore their memories, impressions, and connections to this distinctive North Carolina town. As Daniel Wallace writes in his lighthearted introduction, Chapel Hill “has, over the years, become the home of more writers than any other single town in the world.” Although he has no data to bolster this claim, this collection highlights the deep connections that many illustrious authors have to this university town.

The prose and poetry are organized in thematic sections. The first section, “Fans & Friends,” contains reflections by Wells Tower, Jock Lauterer, Linnie Greene, Harry Amana, and Will Blythe on such diverse topics as James Taylor, the vibrant local music scene, and the UNC-Chapel Hill’s men’s and women’s basketball teams. The intense UNC-Chapel and Duke rivalry is not overlooked as Blythe writes in his hilarious essay that “raising his children in the International Brotherhood of Duke Haters was the natural and one of the most enjoyable aspects of my father’s master plan.” In “Friends & Neighborhoods,” Erica Eisdorfer, Samia Serageldin, Mildred Council, Moreton Neal, and Jim Seay, explore the varied meanings of community. The section ends with Seay’s poignant piece about his son Josh. “Street Scenes” takes the reader on a tour of Chapel Hill with pieces by Paul Cuadros, Alan Shapiro, Sy Safransky, Paul Jones, Bill Smith, and CJ Suitt on such diverse topics as the Latino/Latina cooks working in Franklin Street restaurants, the Community Bookstore, and the perfect spot to gather honeysuckle and blackberries.

Michael McFee, Bland Simpson, D.G. Martin, and Marcie Cohen Ferris in a “Place Apart” attempt to define the uniqueness of Chapel Hill with writings on such topics as Battle Park and the beautiful private garden on Gimghoul Road with its “The Garden is Open” call to all visitors. “Views from Before” appeals to the history buff in all of us with writings by William Leuchtenburg, David Brown, Charles Thompson, Karen Parker, and Will McInerney. The essays by Thompson and Parker on the turbulent civil rights years are particularly heart-wrenching. In the last section, Elizabeth Spencer, Lawrence Naumoff, and Daphne Athas present three “Views in Fiction.” Of particular interest to librarians is Athas’s “The Library” from *Entering Ephesus* with one of the characters speaking no truer words than “the library is the focal point of the university.” The collection is punctuated by Nic Brown’s “A Love Letter,” written as he and his family departs Chapel Hill for Colorado.

Daniel Wallace remarks in his introduction, “So many wonderful writers live here, it’s impossible to fit them all in one volume. To do that, Eno Publishers would have to change the
title to 27,000 Views of Chapel Hill. Because everybody has their own view, every writer, every reader. Here are a few of them. Enjoy.” You absolutely should heed his call and savor this wonderful collection and rejoice in the fact that there are publication plans for 27 Views of Durham and 27 Views of Asheville. This book is recommended for all academic and public libraries.

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