

## Kernersville author achieves 'Rising Star' designation

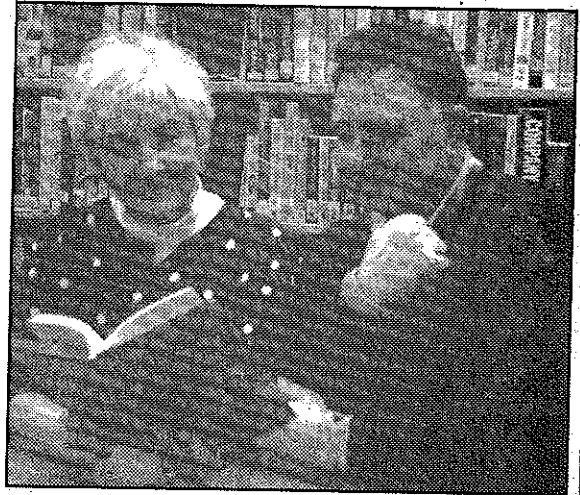
By VINCE HOLBROOK  
Contributing Writer

Ever since he was 13-years-old, Kernersville resident Nick Barry dreamed of becoming a famous author. Forty years later, his dream is coming true. His first book, "Escape of the Terra-Cotta Soldiers: An Ethan Sparks Adventure" happens to be a book that's age appropriate for 13-year-olds, and it is off to a great start. It has already attained recognition within the ranks of the publisher, iUniverse, as Editor's Choice, Marketer's Choice, and Designer's Choice. Because of these recognitions, the book is marked with the Rising Star designation. Bottom line: this means the publisher has identified the book as one of their best chances for commercial success. The book is available online through Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, Target, and about 10 other Web sites in North America and Europe. Soon it will be available in bookstores.

Ethan Sparks, the main character, is a 13-year old North Carolinian who is traveling in China with his father, a UNC - Chapel Hill professor and archaeologist with the Research Laboratories of Archaeology. Ethan starts his journey photographing his famous father's unearthing of a Terra-Cotta Soldier for a young adult magazine. He soon finds himself in the middle of a black market conspiracy that's got as much adventure and excitement as any Harry Potter book. Only Ethan has no magical powers to bail him out of danger. He must rely on his wits and intellect to solve his problems.

In addition to being a book that middle schoolers will want to read, it is also the kind of book that school libraries will be proud to have on their shelves," said Charlene Motsinger, president of the Forsyth School Media Association (FSMA) and Media Coordinator at Glenn High School. "Readers will learn about Chinese culture, history, and archeology within the context of a great fiction adventure."

"Charlene was a great resource to me while I was writing the book," Barry recalled. "She suggested I remove some of the slang in the earlier drafts to make it more acceptable to parents, teachers, and



Glenn High School Media Coordinator Charlene Motsinger reads the new book as Kernersville author Nick Barry looks on. (Photo contributed)

librarians - and I am glad I took her advice, because my editor said, 'This is the type of book that both parents and their children will appreciate. Ethan is a great role model because he's cool but also genuinely a good person.'"

Barry worked within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System for several years. He was a teacher's assistant at the Children's Center in Winston-Salem, working with children who have physical handicaps. He also served as a one-on-one assistant for a wheelchair-bound student at Piney Grove Elementary School.

Before that, Barry and his wife Jennifer worked together at American Express in Greensboro. Jennifer still works at American Express.

When he's not writing or promoting his book, Barry is a member of the Winston-Salem Writers Group and the president of the Williamsgate Homeowners' Association in Kernersville, which is located in the Century Park neighborhood. The Barrys and their two dogs, Natalie and Carson, have lived in Kernersville since 1996.

For the next year, Barry has the dual challenge of promoting his first book and writing his second Ethan Sparks Adventure at the same time.

"I have two other Ethan Sparks Adventures drafted," Barry said. "The deadlines for the next two books keep me busy enough, but I also have to balance that with the promotion of the current book."

Barry is scheduling book signings and readings at bookstores, schools, and public libraries throughout North Carolina.

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