University Libraries

SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

plus

"IT COMES DOWN TO PEOPLE"

FALL LITERARY FESTIVAL 2015
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Ex Libris Society President Reece Williams, left, and Rick Layman attended the Dashiell Hammett Collection celebratory event in May. The Ex Libris Society recognizes donors who support the University Libraries.

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Cover photograph: South Caroliniana Library, 2015
University Libraries played an important part in helping the university reach its ambitious $1 billion goal through the Carolina’s Promise campaign that concluded this past June. The libraries’ initial goal was $25 million, and I am pleased to report we more than doubled that figure, raising over $60 million.

Significant materials for the use of our faculty, students and researchers comprised more than half of our donations. These included the acquisition of the papers of major 20th-century novelists, significant historical and political manuscripts, rare book collections and unique family and regional films.

Following the Carolina’s Promise campaign, we are embarking on our own significant fundraising effort. While we always seek financial support to fund our core mission, we have a critical need this year to raise money to renovate the South Caroliniana Library. The historic building that houses this national treasure will be 175 years old this year. As we celebrate that milestone, we are also aware that its aging infrastructure does not meet modern standards.

Nineteenth-century American philosopher and psychologist William James once said, “The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.” We ask our supporters to contribute to educational and research pursuits that will long outlast us all.

The South Caroliniana Library has stood for generations as a repository for culture and knowledge. Our diverse collections, throughout all our libraries, are at the heart of our mission to be the learning and discovery center on campus that connects students, faculty and the community in an exchange of ideas.

As you will learn in this edition of University Libraries, we are forging ahead to achieve our goal of growing our collections and our resources. We invite you to join us in this effort!
Step into the South Caroliniana Library and you are stepping into history.

The brick building distinguished by four white columns stands prominently at the northwestern entrance of the Horseshoe. The Greek Revival-inspired structure was completed 175 years ago in 1840, and today it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“In 1838, the South Carolina College board secured $15,000 from the state legislature to construct a library, but the design by Robert Mills, who was the first federal architect, was elaborate and had an estimated cost five times the authorized price,” said Henry Fulmer, director of the South Caroliniana Library. “We know from Mills’ diary that he helped scale back the plan to keep the project closer to budget.”

Some of the original elements in his design, like the Doric columns, remained, but as an alternative to his original plan for a domed second floor Reading Room, Mills substituted Charles Bulfinch’s design for the room that housed Thomas Jefferson’s library in the second Library of Congress.

Through the years, the building has undergone many renovations, but the most significant was the addition of two wings designed by J. Carroll Johnson in 1927.

“We celebrate the rich history of this building and its status as the first free-standing academic library in the country, but recognize the infrastructure of a 175-year-old building is not adequate to protect the irreplaceable items that comprise the South Caroliniana Library collection today,” said Tom McNally, dean of University Libraries. “So in this anniversary year, we have also launched a significant renovation effort.”

Earlier this year, the collection — including manuscripts, maps, portraits, photographs, statuary, newspapers and oral histories — was moved out of the building for safekeeping in other libraries around campus in preparation for the renovation. The library remains open and the collection is still accessible.

The renovation will be done in two phases. Phase I will upgrade and reconfigure the stacks area where the collection is stored. New state-of-the-art compact shelving will be installed and the area will be retrofitted with premier fire suppression,
South Caroliniana Library celebrates 175 years

humidity control and heating and cooling systems. Phase II will make public areas of the building more accessible and functional for patrons.

The state legislature again supported the library by allocating $5 million during this year’s session to help pay for the necessary upgrades. Additional resources for the renovations will come from private fundraising.

“The South Caroliniana Library is a library for the entire state of South Carolina, and it’s a library of the state of South Carolina,” Fulmer continued. “Our collection tells the story of our history to current and future generations, and we look forward to the next 175 years.”

FROM RESEARCH TO SCHOLARSHIP

“I couldn’t have written my books without using Caroliniana materials,” said John M. Bryan, a noted architectural historian and retired USC professor of art and architectural history. He is the author of nine books, including Creating the South Carolina State House and Robert Mills: America’s First Architect, and currently is writing a book about the South Caroliniana Library.

“Since 1974, Robert Mills, the architect who designed the library, has been the central pillar of my academic research; I’ve done other things but keep looping back to Mills,” Bryan said. “I’ve never had the privilege of focusing on one building. The research for the latest book started last spring and has yielded some wonderful things, such as new information linking Mills not only to the proposal for the library, but also to the plans for the existing Caroliniana as we know it today.”

The list of books written by authors who used research materials found in the South Caroliniana Library includes these award-winners:

- This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War, Drew Gilpin Faust (Bancroft Prize)
- A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles, from Slavery to the Great Migration, Steven Hahn (Bancroft and Pulitzer Prizes)
- Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt, Christine Heyrman (Bancroft Prize)
- Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery, Leon F. Litwack (Pulitzer Prize)
- Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South, Stephanie McCurry (Avery O. Craven Award)
- Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth Century Chesapeake and Low-Country, Philip D. Morgan (Bancroft Prize)
- The Work of Reconstruction: From Slavery to Wage Laborer in South Carolina, 1860–1879, Julie Saville (Avery O. Craven Award)
- Mary Chesnut’s Civil War, C. Vann Woodward (Pulitzer Prize)
- Prelude to the Civil War: The Nullification Crisis in South Carolina, 1816–1836, William Freehling (Bancroft Prize)

To learn more about the South Caroliniana Library and its renovation plans, visit library.sc.edu/SCL175.
Six students have won the 2014-15 University Libraries Undergraduate Research Awards. A twelve-member review panel, made up of libraries faculty and teaching faculty from across campus, selected four research projects for top prizes and one for honorable mention.

The University Libraries Undergraduate Research Awards reward excellence in undergraduate use of library resources and services and demonstrates the contribution of the libraries to student learning. The award also highlights the value of information literacy by requiring students to describe their research process as part of the application procedures, and encourages faculty to create assignments that engage students in the use of library resources.

This year’s winners are Victoria Coker, a junior from Summerville who took the top prize of $150 in the Black Track for freshmen and sophomores; Alexander Auerback, a 2015 graduate from Dallas, Texas, who took a top prize and $500 in the Garnet Track for juniors and seniors. Aubrey Leaman, a junior from Irmo took a top prize and $500 in the Garnet Track, and Carl Garris, a junior from Chapin, and Aaron Sanders, a 2015 graduate from Chapin, shared a top prize and $500 in the Garnet Track. Jake Tyler Smolinsky, a 2015 graduate from Clinton, New Jersey, received an honorable mention and $200.

Auerback, a mathematics and philosophy major, submitted his Honors College thesis “Du Ponceau and the Ideograph,” which was written under the direction of Gregory Patterson. During the course of his research, Auerback found a copy of 18th century French linguist Peter Stephen Du Ponceau’s A dissertation on the nature and character of the Chinese system of writing in the Libraries’ Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collection.

“Alex discovered Du Ponceau’s Dissertation while searching for a thesis topic having to do with Western concepts of Chinese writing, a subject he had become interested in while pursuing an independent study on the history of representations of China in Euro-American literature and thought,” wrote Patterson in his letter of support.

“Spotting the unfamiliar title in the bibliography of a recent monograph, Alex began a search that led him, fortuitously, to the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,” the letter continued. “There he found a worn and tattered volume, with a large majority of its pages still uncut. Inside the front cover was a faded dedication to Thomas Cooper, hand-written and signed by the author. Cooper had evidently not read much past the introduction. At Alex’s request, the folded pages were slit open, and the whole Dissertation was studied for the first time since its initial publication in 1838.”

For more information about these awards, including past winners, visit library.sc.edu/undergradaward.html.
The History Division of Marine Corps University (MCU) and the Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC) have formed a partnership to preserve and make accessible a large, historic collection of Marine Corps films housed at MCU in Quantico. The collection includes more than 12,000 reels of film shot by Marine Corps photographers documenting the operational history of the Corps from 1940 to the mid-1970s, with extensive coverage of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

MIRC has created the U.S. Marine Corps Film Repository as the first step in preserving the films and preparing them for digitization. Once digitized, veterans and their families will be able to view footage online. MCU researchers can use never-before-seen footage to inform real-world military strategy, and historians can deepen their understanding of past conflicts.

For more information, visit library.sc.edu/marinecorps or contact MIRC curator Greg Wilsbacher at 803-777-5556.

NEW FACES AT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

HAVE YOU MET...

EDWARD BLESSING
ARCHIVIST
SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY

“I’m a Manuscripts Division archivist, so I process incoming collections. I’m sometimes the first person to look at the items in a new collection, document them and create a plan to catalog them and create a finding aid.

“Since the Caroliniana items have been moved out of the South Caroliniana Library, I’ve become the Graniteville Room stacks manager for the items that are now housed in Thomas Cooper Library. We are working on re-housing and preparing the collections to move back into the library. We are taking the long-term view: once Caroliniana is refurbished, which will take several years, the collection will be in excellent shape, and we’ll be ready to move it back in.

“I always advise students to get hands-on experience in a field they are interested in. That way they can discover if they actually enjoy doing that kind of work. Even if you don’t end up doing work in that field, it is still valuable experience. What our students work on corresponds with what we are working on in our area. The next project for an intern in my area will be working with the Marlboro County Public School System materials.”

LAURA LITWER
Digital Initiatives Archivist
South Carolina Political Collections
Hollings Library

KARLI MAIR
LIBR 101 Online Curriculum Librarian
Research, Instruction, and Reference
Thomas Cooper Library

NATHAN SAUNDERS
Curator of Manuscripts
South Caroliniana Library

FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA...

Wounded Marines are evacuated from Blue Beach, Iwo Jima on March 2, 1945.
“It comes down to people”
AN ALUMNUS’ ROLE IN CREATING THE DASHIELL HAMMETT COLLECTION

Three years ago a Sotheby’s appraiser told Richard Layman that he considered the University of South Carolina’s special collections in American literature to be among the top five in the nation.

“I like playing in the big leagues,” said the USC alumnus, which helps explain why the comprehensive Dashiell Hammett collection has found a new home with the University Libraries.

Layman’s Hammett Collection of printed materials and research files is complemented with the Hammett Family Archive, complete with love letters, family photographs and correspondence. Together they form the most complete Hammett collection known to exist.

Layman, Hammett’s biographer and a trustee for the Hammett Literary Property Trust, has spent 40 years researching the life and work of the man known as the ace of hardboiled detective fiction. But Layman’s affinity for the big leagues isn’t the only reason the collection is here.

“In 1972 I came to Carolina to go to school and had the good fortune to be assigned to the formidable Matthew J. Bruccoli as his research assistant,” said Layman, who has a Ph.D. in American literature and is now the author or co-author of numerous books, including nine about Hammett.

“Matt was a faculty member in the English department and a renowned scholar of American literature who later became my friend and business partner. My dissertation was a bibliographical study of American writer Ring Lardner, and it was published by the Pittsburgh Series in Bibliography, the most respected descriptive bibliography series of the time. When I finished it, Matt asked if I would like to do a Hammett bibliography. That’s when I became obsessed with Hammett, author of The Maltese Falcon, among other great books.

“What attracted me to Hammett is that there is substance to his work. You can read him profitably a second time, and still a 30th time. Hammett is a pathway to all sorts of interests, certainly critical endeavors but also social history, philosophy, psychology. Like reading any other first-rate writer, careful attention to Hammett can teach you how to read, leading to a fuller appreciation of the richness of literary expression in general. My Hammett research has taken me to the greatest libraries in the U.S. and England, and to interests well beyond one man’s works.”

A long-time friend of the University Libraries, Layman has also written or edited books on Ring Lardner and John Dos Passos, as well as general works on American literature. His books have twice been nominated for the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award. Based in Columbia, he is president of Bruccoli Clark Layman, producers of award-winning reference books, including the Dictionary of Literary Biography, and managing director of Layman Poupard Publishing, producers of the highly regarded Literature Criticism Series published by Gale Cengage (www.lppubl.com). His companies annually produce 114 volumes comprising some 25 million words of literary research material.

“Finally, in the end, to paraphrase American novelist John Dos Passos, it all comes down to one person, one person who does something,” Layman said. “So in the University Libraries it comes down to people. It began with George Terry, who was dean of the Libraries in the 1990s and avidly involved in developing the university’s collections. There’s the current dean, Tom McNally: I like him, I trust him and I believe him when he says my collection will be valued and made accessible to users. And there’s Elizabeth Suddu of the Irvin Department, who is wonderfully smart and does what she says she is going to do. All of the staff at the Thomas Cooper Library inspire confidence. I want to see this material that I care deeply about in the hands of people I trust and believe in.”

Learn more about the Dashiell Hammett Collection at library.sc.edu/news/index.php?post_id=1642.
The University of South Carolina’s Fall Literary Festival will feature graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang, poet and playwright Claudia Rankine and short-story writer and filmmaker Etgar Keret. While on campus, they will read from their works, talk with audience members and be available to sign books. Each writer also will work with students in a master class.

The Fall Literary Festival, now in its 16th season, is sponsored by the English department and University Libraries. The festival is supported by a generous anonymous donor, allowing each program to be free and open to the public. All readings begin at 6 p.m. and will be held in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, which is accessible through USC’s Thomas Cooper Library.

For more information about the Fall Literary Festival, including directions and parking information, go to library.sc.edu/fallfestival.html.
EXHIBITS

Now through Oct. 30, “Defining Botany,” Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections Gallery, Hollings Library

Now through Nov. 15, “Nuclear Carolina: Power and Waste in the Palmetto State,” S.C. Political Collections Gallery, Hollings Library

CALENDAR

EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 6
Kickoff for the South Caroliniana Library 175th Anniversary, 5:30 p.m., Guest speaker Cokie Roberts, Drayton Hall, 6:30 p.m., Reception, South Caroliniana Library garden

Oct. 30, 3–5 p.m.
Center for Digital Humanities open house, Hollings Library

Thursday, Nov. 5
Ex Libris Society Annual Dinner and Pat Conroy 70th birthday celebration, Hollings Library, 6–9 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 12
Moving Image Research Collections celebrates WIS-TV’s Awareness 45th anniversary, Hollings Library, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Open Galleries, Hollings Library
Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Guided tour of the Pat Conroy Retrospective exhibit at noon, vault tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 3, Thomas Cooper Society holiday coffee, 3:30 p.m., and University Society South Caroliniana / USC Press holiday book signing, 4:30, Hollings Library
HAVE YOU MET...
DOROTHY WALKER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICAL COLLECTIONS
HOLLINGS LIBRARY

“South Carolina Political Collections was established in 1991 as Modern Political Collections in response to Sen. Ernest Hollings giving his papers to the university. In 2014, we reached 114 collections with two of our newest donors, League of Women Voters leader Sarah Leverette and health care policy expert Anton Gunn, both USC graduates.

“We have collections of all sizes, from three folders of materials to 800 boxes. Sometimes the collections arrive well-organized, sometimes not at all. Our job is to organize them in a way that is useful for researchers, current and future. So while we are processing and cataloging a collection, we also are working on creating a finding guide to help people find items. The guides are all online and searchable.

“We have a small staff, just four full-time employees, so everyone is involved in the processing of collections. Students are a great resource for us, and I think we offer a great learning environment for them. We always have several working with us. Our students are usually library science students, history majors or museum studies students. I originally came to work at SCPC as a history graduate student.”

SCOER! ONE FOR OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Finding the right textbook at an affordable cost is a challenge. University Libraries has partnered with Student Government on the SCoer! Faculty Award to address this challenge. The award encourages faculty to explore adoption of freely available, high-quality online materials, or Open Educational Resources (OER), that can replace costly textbooks. The 2015 awardees were USC faculty members Nathan Carnes, education; Darin Freeburg, library and Information science; Sherry Grosso, business; Linda Hazlett, public health; and R. Mac Jones, Extended University and Palmetto College.

“When OER materials are created, they are often created for lower-level, high-enrollment courses, where textbooks cost $300 to $400 each,” says Amie Freeman, chair of the Libraries’ Scholarly Communications Team. “Typically, faculty members at an institution are paid to write them, and they are peer reviewed and often government funded.” This is true of the materials in Open Textbook Library and OpenStax, two OER repositories.

To participate in the new award program, faculty members attend a one-hour workshop that helps them identify OER materials available for their courses. They then write a review of an Open Access textbook and decide if they will use the book in a course. Each awardee receives a certificate and a $200 monetary award.

“I can never find a textbook that completely fits my needs, so I have always thought open resources would be a great idea,” explained award recipient Linda Hazlett in her application. “I am also very open to ANY idea that would save my students money.”

Using OER materials is clearly a win for faculty and for students. Current plans are to offer the SCoer! Award once a year. The next award cycle will be spring 2016.
A GIFT OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS

A stroll through a Charleston, S.C., antique shop set in motion a recent gift to the University Libraries.

“About 25 years ago I became intrigued by a Bible that I came across,” said Amy Stone, ’72, ’76 M.Ed. “This was clearly a very special Bible because of the illustrations, and the binding was very handsome.”

Published by James Virtue in London in the 1860s, the two-volume Bible includes 45 illustrations, and, after being displayed in Stone’s home for years, it now lives in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections as an addition to the University Libraries’ Bible collection.

“As my husband and I downsize, we are finding homes for select items,” she said. “I wanted this Bible to be shared and made available, for research, instruction or display.

“I’m a first-generation college graduate, and my husband played football for Carolina,” said Stone, secretary of the university’s Board of Trustees. “What we have been able to achieve in our lives is due to what we have received through the university. So, naturally, we think about giving to the university before anywhere else.”

If you would like information about making material gifts to the University Libraries, please visit library.sc.edu/p/Develop/Support/GiftMaterials. If you would like to support the University Libraries in other ways, please contact the University Libraries Development Office at 803-777-1278.