Spring 2010

Reflections - Spring 2010

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Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library to Open in June

The University Libraries’ eagerly awaited Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library will be dedicated in June. The Hollings library will house the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) as well as South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC). The two collections will share a reading room and a meeting room, but will have individual exhibit areas, offices, workrooms, and stack areas. The library will also house the University Libraries’ Digital Collections Department.

Technology Lounge Dedicated at Thomas Cooper Library

After months of planning and construction, the new Thomas Cooper Technology Lounge was opened to students in January. Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Dean of Libraries Tom McNally, Provost Michael Amiridis, student body president Meredith Ross, and former dean of engineering Ken Humphries, representing the Class of 1958, which was one of the project’s major donors. Students began using the lounge immediately after the ceremony, and it has already become one of the most popular study places in the library.

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FROM THE DEAN OF LIBRARIES:

I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR YOU. This academic year will be concluded in very exciting fashion. Construction on the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library will be completed in late May. We will require a few weeks to move in, and we should be operational by June. We will have interesting and exciting speakers for next year’s annual meetings of the Thomas Cooper Society and the University South Caroliniana Society. Over the summer, we will use stimulus funding to renovate group study rooms in Thomas Cooper Library and will be hard at work preparing for the return of the students in the fall. That’s the good news.

The bad news is that our state and our University are facing additional budget cuts, which will be severe. We have seen this coming, and we have been preparing in every way available to us. Even so, we know that the next one to two years will be difficult.

The University Libraries face these issues with one guiding principle: Our students will only attend this University once, and while they are here, we are going to provide a library experience that is exceptional. We have great collections, and we will squeeze every dollar to maintain and expand them. We are going to keep the doors of Thomas Cooper Library open 24/7 because we know how important that is to our students. Our superb staff will continue to provide services that are equal to or better than most university libraries.

Good news and bad news … I suppose there is always a bit more of one than the other. So we will take it as it comes, stay true to why we are here, and continue to make the University of South Carolina libraries great!

Tom McNally


THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY RECEIVES A FACELIFT

FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE THOMAS COOPER LIBRARY FIRST OPENED AS THE UNIVERSITY’S UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY, it was time for some much-needed exterior repair and restoration. Work began in January and should be completed before the fall semester.

The marble from the east, west, and south sides of the building was removed, cleaned, and reattached with steel supports, matching similar work done earlier on the north side. The brass grates on the east and west sides were removed, cleaned, and replaced, and the roof overhang was painted.

In May, the patio pavers and current subflooring will be removed and replaced with new subflooring and pavers. During this process, new waterproofing will be installed. The marble planters will be removed, cleaned, and reinstalled with new irrigation systems. They will be replanted with crepe myrtles and annuals.

The limestone bench around the perimeter of the patio will be removed and replaced with a railing. New benches and new lighting will be installed around the patio, and the drainage system will be cleaned and repaired. The disabilities ramp will be widened to meet current code.

Watson Tate Savory are the architects for the renovations and Gilbane Inc. is the contractor.
Shown at the dedication of the Thomas Cooper Technology Lounge are, left to right, Class of 1958 representatives Thomas M. Jackson, Charline M. Brandt, and W. Kenneth Humphries; University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Michael D. Amiridis; Student Body President Meredith Ross; Dean of Libraries Thomas F. McNally; and Anne Witten Bauknight and Margaret Bauknight, representing Class of 1958 member Gerald C. Bauknight.

At their 50th reunion, members of the Class of 1958 chose to use their anniversary gift to support the renovation of the library’s outdated computer lab. Under the leadership of W. Kenneth Humphries, Wray Davis Williamson, and Gerald C. Bauknight, the class members donated $115,000 toward the project. Student technology fees were used to acquire hardware and software, and library funds were used to complete the project.

During the planning process, students provided ideas about the kind of computer activity center they would like to have: good lighting, comfortable chairs, new carpet, new paint colors, group study areas, more desk space and privacy screens for individual computers, more multimedia software, more scanners, and flexible seating. The new lounge meets these requirements and also provides spaces to accommodate group study with white boards and large TV screens for sharing computer-based projects.

The service desk in the lounge has more than 80 laptops, which students can check out for use anywhere in the library. The area also has 64 individual workstations with computers, large desks, privacy screens, and comfortable chairs. New technology includes high-end multimedia software for presentations; video, image, and audio editing for assignments with multimedia components; and scanners at each of the multimedia workstations.

For more information on the lounge, visit www.sc.edu/library/complab.html.

International business students from USC Aiken, Tracie Wheeland and Andrew Lietzow, lost no time settling in on opening day at the new Technology Lounge.
An exhibit, “And Lest We Forget: Remembering Ward One,” was on display in the South Caroliniana Library this spring. The exhibit of photographs and other memorabilia was curated by Ashley Bauknight, a museum studies student in the University’s public history program.

The exhibit presented research findings of students in Professor Bobby Donaldson’s honors course, African American Documentary History in South Carolina. Students in the class conducted research at the University in the South Caroliniana Library, University Archives, Moving Image Research Collections, and Map Library, as well as at the Richland County Public Library and the Columbia Housing Authority. The students also conducted interviews with residents from the community who had recollections of or had heard stories about the area.

The exhibit honored residents of Columbia’s Ward One, also known as Glencoe, a historic African American neighborhood once located along Main, Heyward, Huger, and Gervais streets. As the University campus expanded to the west, the neighborhood was demolished to make way for the Carolina Coliseum, Koger Center, Colonial Life Arena, Green Quad, and Greek Village.

A display of books presented to the University Libraries by Hanban, headquarters for Confucius Institutes worldwide, will be on display on the Main Level of Thomas Cooper Library through April 30. Shanna Schaffer created the exhibit with guidance from Gary Geer and Sharon Verba, as well as assistance from Doug King, Jody Mack, and Jodi Spillane.

Longtime friend of the University Libraries and current president of the Ex Libris Society, Wilmot B. Irvin, a self-described “lawyer-by-day and novelist-by-night,” has published his fourth novel, Merriman’s Second Chance (Red Letter Press, 2009).

Irvin finished his undergraduate work at the University in 1972 and graduated from the law school in 1977. He began writing fiction a decade ago. His earlier novels are Jack’s Passage, There Is a River, and The Storytellers. He has also written a number of short stories and a novella, Some Kind of Kin. Excerpts from Wilmot’s works may be found at his Web site: www.wilmotbooks.com.

Lawryn Henderson and the staff at the Arthur E. Holman Jr. Conservation Laboratory recently completed a project to restore the South Caroliniana Library’s Sinkler Family Papers. These 18th- and 19th-century papers, which had been too fragile to be handled, are now restored and ready to be consulted by researchers.

A new Web-based catalog search engine called Encore was installed at the University Libraries for spring semester. Encore combines state-of-the-art technology with an easily accessible “Google-like” keyword search interface. It allows for such enhanced content as book cover art and integration of the libraries’ Digital Collections. Other features include faceted search results and suggestions of pertinent recently-added items.
The University Libraries’ yearlong series of events to celebrate the old card catalog continued in November with the “What Can You Make with Catalog Cards?” contest. Four types of entries were invited: functional (serves a purpose), foundational (building models), fashionable (wearable), and free form.

The Best in Show award went to Paige Duvall for “Live Oak Tree.” Other winners included: Best in Functional Category, Karen Heid for her “Floor Lamp”; Best in Free Form Category, Virginia Caroline Jordan for her “Flowers in a Vase”; and Best in Fashionable Category, Anjuli Grantham for her “Purse.” Special awards were presented for: Best Series, Jessica Cooper for her three “Cyclops Figures,” and Most Library-like, Mallory Collins for his “Book with Photographs of Thomas Cooper Library and USC Campus.”

Another special award, Best Catalog Card Video Ever Made, was created to recognize Ian Dillinger for his “Cooper Trooper,” a car completely covered with catalog cards. A video of the process may be seen at www.youtube.com/CooperTrooperUSC.

Other spring semester events included: Flash Card Fiction, the “How Many Cards Are in That Thing?” contest, an Art Invitational, and Float a Boat. Plans for fall semester include: Craft a Literary Character Contest, Cardiovascular Fitness Challenge, and Jazz Funeral for the Card Catalog.
Dean of Libraries Thomas F. McNally says of the new building, “The Hollings Library was envisioned by George Terry, begun by Paul Willis, and will be completed on my watch. In many ways, the Hollings library will exceed any of our expectations. It will be the place in which scholars will want to do their research, the venue we want for our programs, and the secure home where our donors will want to place their collections.”

Entry to the 50,000-square-foot Hollings library will be across an indoor bridge from the main level of Thomas Cooper Library. State-of-the-art spaces on three levels will provide an ideal climate and atmosphere for both people and library materials. Scholars will find comfortable study conditions in the Reading Room, while visitors will enjoy changing exhibits mounted by both RBSC and SCPC. The meeting room, with windows opening to the garden area below the building, will be available for library, University, and public programs, including presentations, symposia, and annual meetings of the libraries’ support groups.

HOLLINGS cont. from page 1

SCPC librarians Lori Schwartz and Herb Hartsook are shown in the compact storage area of the Hollings Library as they shelve the first SCPC book, Ernest F. Hollings’ Making Government Work.

Elizabeth Sudduth, librarian in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, prepares to move the department’s many treasures, including this one from the Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton.

The new Hollings Library will provide South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) a magnificent venue for outreach. In addition to continued rotating exhibits that highlight particular collections and issues or themes documented within SCPC, the exhibit gallery will feature semipermanent exhibits to reflect the history of contemporary South Carolina’s government and society. These exhibits will help explain state government to the many classes of school students drawn to the capital city. The semipermanent exhibits will highlight leadership in state government, featuring governors and leaders within the S.C. General Assembly; South Carolina’s congressional delegation; organizations influencing politics and government, such as the major state political parties and the League of Women Voters; and the legacy of Ernest F. “Fritz” Hollings, for whom the library is named.

SCPC has long been recognized for the breadth of its holdings. There are many special collections repositories that feature congressional collections. Many of these have one major collection with perhaps a few other related collections. SCPC holds almost 100 discrete collections documenting all levels of leadership in government. Included are the papers of every S.C. governor but one beginning with George Bell Timmerman, House Speakers Sol Blatt and David Wilkins, and other notable members of the S.C. House and Senate.

Major congressional collections include the papers of Senators Olin Johnston, Donald Russell, Hollings, and Lindsey Graham and U.S. House members Bryan Dorn, Butler Derrick, Liz Patterson, Floyd Spence, and Joe Wilson. These voluminous collections document the careers and impact of these leaders, the issues that shaped their times, the diverse communities located across South Carolina, and the lives and concerns of South Carolinians.

SCPC serves as the official repository for the papers of both the state Democratic and Republican parties as well as the League of Women Voters. SCPC is also home to the personal papers of a number of leaders in these organizations, many of whom have participated in SCPC’s oral history program.

Senator Hollings has had perhaps as much an impact on modern South Carolina as anyone. A visionary leader, his service in the S.C. General Assembly and as lieutenant governor, governor, and U.S. senator has been unparalleled. His is the largest collection of personal papers ever received by the University, and it has already engendered significant research on a wide range of topics.
The University Libraries’ Digital Collections Department is dedicated to the production, maintenance, delivery, and preservation of digital resources for scholars and students at the University, the citizens of South Carolina, and the public at large.

Through the use of appropriate technological standards, the University Libraries endeavor to increase access to its holdings in order to improve the teaching and research of faculty, to facilitate the learning and research of the students, to promote lifelong learning by the citizens of South Carolina and the public at large, and to increase knowledge about the development and importance of digital collections.

Digital collections have been created for materials from the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, the South Caroliniana Library, South Carolina Political Collections, Moving Image Research Collections, Government Information, the Map Library, the Music Library, University Archives, the USC Beaufort Library, and the USC Aiken Library.

The digital collections Web site at www.sc.edu/library/digital/index.php allows researchers to browse all the collections, view the newest collections, or search for specific collections or items via keyword.
South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC) has mounted an exhibit titled “Christmas on the Potomac” each December for the past several years. The 2009 exhibit featured holiday cards received by Congressman Joe Wilson in 2008 from other members of Congress, foreign dignitaries, businesses, and organizations. Also included were calendar cards sent by the Wilsons in recent years.

The SCPC exhibit “South Carolina Governors” will be on display outside Thomas Cooper Library’s Main Level East Gallery through May 31.

SCPC preserves the papers of 11 men who have led South Carolina as governor: Olin D. Johnston, George Bell Timmerman, Ernest F. Hollings, Donald S. Russell, Robert E. McNair, John C. West, James B. Edwards, Richard W. Riley, Carroll A. Campbell Jr., James H. Hodges, and Marshall C. Sanford. This exhibit draws on their collections and other holdings to showcase their administrations and some of the issues they confronted while serving as governor.

SCPC also holds a collection of interviews conducted by the late dean of libraries George Terry, with South Carolina first families regarding life in the governor’s mansion.

The papers of Johnston, Timmerman, Hollings, Russell, McNair, and West are open for study and described in detail at the SCPC Web site: www.sc.edu/library/scpc.

In Memoriam

University Libraries staff members noted with sadness the passing in November 2009 of two women whose lives directly impacted the mission of the University Libraries.

Dorothy Anne Petersen Ackerman (Dottie) passed away Nov. 25, 2009. She was a friend and supporter of the University Libraries for many years, most recently as a volunteer in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Her background as a librarian and her language facility were invaluable in this service.

Longtime members of the Thomas Cooper Society, Mrs. Ackerman and her husband, Steve, received the South Carolina Library Association’s 2006 award for volunteers in recognition of their service to the University Libraries and to the Richland County Public Library.

Mary Alice Copeland Patterson, widow of Dr. William Herman Patterson, the University’s 24th president, passed away Nov. 26, 2009. She was USC’s first lady from 1974 to 1977.

Mrs. Patterson showed her support for the University Libraries by establishing the Mary Alice Patterson Fund, to which memorials may be made.

With the assistance of Harriette Wunder, Mrs. Patterson also established a charitable remainder trust to benefit the George D. Terry Library Building Fund upon her death.
“Christina Rossetti, An Exhibition of Books Recently Purchased with Gifts to the Treasures Acquisition Program” was on display in Thomas Cooper Library’s Main Level East Gallery during the spring semester.

According to director of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections Patrick Scott, “Almost all the books in the exhibit were purchased for the library during the past year. The purchases were made possible by gifts from two donors to the libraries’ Treasures Acquisition Program (TAP). TAP differs from most other library donor funds in that money is donated for expenditure on purchases now, rather than to build endowments for the future.

“Because Christina Rossetti’s work is frequently taught in both undergraduate and graduate courses, we wanted to improve the range of her work available to students in its original format,” Scott said. The first donation, at the end of 2008, allowed purchase of the majority of the first editions of her work; the second, from a different donor in May 2009, funded the purchase of Rossetti’s very rare first book, Verses (privately printed, 1847).

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI
BY PATRICK SCOTT

CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI (1830–1894) was regarded in her own lifetime as one of the two most significant women poets of the Victorian period, and her writing has continued to attract critics, readers, and illustrators. She was born in London, one of four gifted children of an Italian political exile. Her grandfather, father, and uncle were all authors, as were all of her siblings. Most notably among them was her gifted brother, the artist and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who was the leader of the Pre-Raphaelite movement in Victorian art and who designed illustrations and bindings for his sister’s early books.

Christina Rossetti’s talent as a poet was recognized while she was a teenager, and her first book was privately printed when she was only 16. Her fame as an author came with the publication of her Goblin Market and Other Poems (1862), a long fantasy work about two young sisters who are tempted to buy and eat the fruit offered by goblin street merchants; one sister eats, becoming delirious, and only the self-sacrifice of her sister saves her. Regarded by many contemporary readers as simply a children’s story, it is now read and reread by critics as a major exploration of Victorian social, religious, and psychological concerns.

In her own time, Rossetti was also known for her haunting shorter poems. Some concern either disappointment in love or her own rejection of it, such as the song “When I Am Dead, My Dearest,” the semi-satirical poem “The Queen of Hearts,” or the enigmatic “Winter: My Secret.” Other short poems express her religious belief, as in the often-quoted anthology piece “Up-Hill” or the Christmas carol “In the Deep Midwinter.”

Rossetti’s prose writing—the posthumously published early novel Maude, the short stories collected in Commonplace (1870), and especially the later books she published with the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge—have not received as much critical attention.
What were student exams like at the University of South Carolina in 1855? What subjects were students studying in 1900?

A new digital collection from the University Archives, University of South Carolina Student Exams, 1854–1917, offers the answers to these questions and others as it charts the evolution of teaching and learning through seven decades.

The collection contains more than 200 documents and includes printed exams, handwritten student answers, and even “scratch paper” where students worked out math problems. Although the collection had been previously processed by University Archives and was open to researchers, many of the materials were fragile or damaged and unable to withstand heavy use.

In order to preserve the documents and make their contents more accessible, University Archivist Elizabeth West asked me to focus my internship on a digitization project that would include detailed information about each item. Supported by the Digital Collections Department at Thomas Cooper Library, I scanned each page and researched both the faculty members who created the exams and the students who took them.

Identifying printed exams was relatively easy, but handwritten answers by students required more investigation. Using records in University Archives, I was able to identify most student names, dates of attendance, approximate dates of the exams, and the careers students pursued after graduation. One large group of exams, however, proved elusive. Although it was obvious that the names on the exams belonged to students at the University, none of the names appeared in alumni records. We believe that African American students who attended the University between 1873 and 1877 took these exams. After this brief period of integration, almost all records of these students were destroyed. Using correspondence from this period, a few remaining student lists, and city registers, we were able to identify the students who took many of these exams. The exams now serve as some of the best documentation we have of these African Americans and their important place in the University’s history.

This collection demonstrates how the University’s curriculum developed over time. Early exams reflect the institution’s original focus on classical education when freshman students had to pass lengthy exams in Latin and Greek. Later exams show the emergence of other disciplines, including medicine and modern languages.

In its digital format, the collection allows researchers to move easily between multiple exams and find information about the subject, the faculty, and the students. The digital collection may be accessed at www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/sx.html.

—Patricia Sasser wrote this report while working as an intern in University Archives. She graduated in December 2009 with a Master of Library and Information Science degree.

**BATES AND SPENCE**

**COLLECTIONS OPENED FOR RESEARCH**

**LESTER BATES SR.**

**LESTER BATES SR.** served as mayor of Columbia from 1958 to 1970, during a time of growth and racial integration. Under Bates’ leadership, Columbia became one of only a handful of Southern cities to integrate peacefully, largely due to his establishment of the Columbia Community Relations Council. His other accomplishments included the expansion of Columbia’s airport and the annexing of Fort Jackson.

Bates’ papers comprise four linear feet of material spanning 1942 to 2008 and including numerous speeches. They offer insights into his service as mayor, his work on the Community Relations Council, and his leadership of the New South Life Insurance Company.

**FLOYD SPENCE**

**CONGRESSMAN FLOYD SPENCE** represented South Carolina’s Second District for 30 years, from 1971 to 2001. He served in the S.C. General Assembly and, in 1962, became the state’s first major political figure to switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. Spence was best known during his congressional tenure for his tireless advocacy of a strong military, which resulted in his being named chair of the House Armed Services Committee. His battle with pulmonary disease led to a double-lung transplant in 1988.

The Spence collection, which comprises 90 linear feet of material, is especially strong in its documentation of his work on defense issues and his advocacy of organ donation. Photographs illustrate Spence’s travels and meetings with world and domestic leaders.
The University Libraries and the William Gilmore Simms Society will present a conference, “William Gilmore Simms and the Crucible of Southern Culture,” Sept. 23–25, 2010. A major focus of the conference will be the comparatively neglected post–Civil War period of Simms’ life and work, when he elected to stay in his war-torn native South Carolina, embracing the realities of defeat and Reconstruction.

“We are excited to host this interdisciplinary conference devoted to the work of one of the most important 19th-century American literary figures,” commented Allen Stokes, director of the South Caroliniana Library. “It is especially appropriate that this event be held here, the home of the greatest Simms collection in the world.”

Simms’ increasing prominence in scholarly discourses in a variety of fields has brought researchers from as far away as Japan to use the Caroliniana’s collections. Harvard University president Drew Gilpin Faust, whose work has drawn on the Caroliniana’s resources for many years, praised the library in her address to the University South Caroliniana Society last spring.

The conference will bring prominent Simms scholars from across the country to present papers on every aspect of Simms’ life and work. Plans are underway to publish a number of the papers in conjunction with the publication of two unpublished and largely unknown Simms works left in manuscript upon his death.

Abstracts of papers to be considered for the conference will be accepted until June 25. A prize will be offered for the best student paper, which must be received (not the abstract) by the same date.

To submit an abstract or paper or for more information, contact Allen Stokes at 803-777-3131 or SimmsConference2010@gmail.com.

A partnership with Columbia’s nonprofit art house cinema, The Nickelodeon, allows MIRC to share its treasures with local audiences. In April, MIRC presented a program of short films as part of the Nickelodeon’s Indie Grits Film Festival.

With support from the Library of Congress, MIRC has acquired a state-of-the-art film scanner, the Kinetta. The scanner creates digital copies directly from archival film at up to four times the resolution of high definition television. The only university archive to own such a scanner, MIRC plans an ambitious project to digitize the Fox Movietone News Collection.

Li Youngli, a graduate student from the Beijing Film Academy, is working at MIRC this year to assist in cataloging the nearly 900 titles of 35 mm. and 16 mm. films in the newly acquired Chinese Film Collection.

Magellan Scholars Sarah Allen and Jimmy Gilmore are working at MIRC on Ingagi, a notorious 1930 exploitation film, the success of which apparently convinced RKO to produce King Kong. Allen will investigate how MIRC’s copy compares with other copies known to exist worldwide while Gilmore will chart the evolution of the legend that has grown around the film. The film is part of MIRC’s Feltner collection.

Documents from MIRC’s ongoing project in collaboration with Digital Collections, “Fox Movietone News: The War Years,” may be found at www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/movietone.html.

Ultimately the project will display the newsreel footage associated with these paper records.
Business Library Assists Technology Incubator Clients

“HOW DO I OBTAIN MARKET DATA AND STATISTICS?”

“HOW DO I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT COMPETITORS IN MY INDUSTRY?”

“HOW DO I WRITE A BUSINESS PLAN?”

The Elliott White Springs Business Library staff members are working with the USC Technology Incubator and the Moore School of Business to assist technology incubator clients in answering these and other questions about starting and running a small business in South Carolina.

Head business librarian Dwight Gardner has compiled a list of useful ready reference books for the incubator clients, and assistant business librarian Christie Baird has created a Web site to help them find library resources both on and off campus.