Summer 2014

Reflections - Summer 2014

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Students Learn As They Earn

Sarah Funk and Charlsye Preston-Briegel have perfected what could be called the aerial map boogie: under, over, around, then back under. The two MLIS students have been working with large aerial maps for months now, and that requires a delicate, studied approach.

“We are digitizing an immense aerial photography collection,” Funk said. “We’re picking up good technical skills, learning exactly how items are digitized. I’ve discovered that one of the biggest advantages to working here is learning how the office operates, seeing people at every level, learning how meetings work and how to collaborate on projects.”

No matter what their majors or career interests are – library science, history, even medicine – students who work in the University Libraries learn by doing and they develop marketable skills.

“The skills our student employees learn here are amazingly transferrable,” said Beki Gettys, Associate Dean of the Libraries and Director of Thomas Cooper Library. “We attract students from all different academic areas. Some of our students learn skills that directly complement their degrees, and some are just following their interests. Either way, they often develop skill sets that they can take to any job.”

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FROM THE DEAN OF THE LIBRARIES:

THE 2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS BECOME KNOWN AROUND THE LIBRARIES AS “THE YEAR OF COLLECTIONS.” Thanks to the generosity of our steadfast friends and donors, we were able to expand our collections in every area.

In the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, our children’s literature holdings were greatly enhanced with the Graham-Kennett Collection of Children’s Literature, made possible by Dr. Jill Gilbert, and The Greta D. Little and Joel Myerson Collection of Multicultural Children’s Literature. Dr. Myerson also made significant additions to the Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Literature. Two new collections – The Donald J. and Ellen Greiner Collection of Frederick Busch, and The Donald J. and Ellen Greiner Collection of John Hawkes – were also added.

In May we announced the Pat Conroy Archive at the University of South Carolina, made possible by the Richard and Novelle Smith family in memory of Dorothy Brown Smith. This collection includes 10,000 handwritten pages of Conroy’s work, as well as screenplays, 90 family scrapbooks, thousands of family photographs, and boxes of letters from writers and fans. The archive also will include everything Conroy writes for the rest of his life.

South Carolina Political Collections added several collections, including the papers of Sarah Leverette. Leverette is an inspirational leader of the League of Women Voters and a 1943 graduate of the USC School of Law. Earlier in the year, SCPC received the papers of Henry McMaster, who has had a rich and varied career in government.

Moving Image Research Collections welcomed the Roger Beebe Collection, films of an award-winning experimental filmmaker based in the Southeast, as well as several small collections of 8mm and Super 8mm film collections that have been added thanks to the ASPIRE-III funded acquisition of a ScanStation.

And South Caroliniana Library is now home to the James E. Kibler Literary Collection, which consists chiefly of correspondence spanning 1967 to 2011 between Kibler, a long-time professor of English at the University of Georgia, and noted American authors including Wendell Berry, Fred Chappell and Shelby Foote.

As of this writing, we anticipate two more outstanding collections coming to the Libraries this fall. It appears that 2014-15 is going to be a great sequel.

Tom McNally

NEW FACES

JEANNIE BRITTON
Curator
Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

HEATHER HECKMAN
New appointment:
Director of Moving Image Research Collections

MIKE LEE
New appointment:
Processing Services Serials Acquisitions Librarian

MEGAN PALMER
Assessment Librarian

CASIE REINER
Processing Services System Campuses Catalog and Liaison Librarian

STACY WINCHESTER
Research, Instruction, and Reference Science Librarian
Fall Literary Festival Welcomes Three Authors

The University of South Carolina’s Fall Literary Festival will feature writers Eliza Griswold, Ron Rash and Tony Hoagland in October. While on campus, the writers will read from their work, talk with audience members and be available to sign copies of their books. Each writer also will work with USC students in a master class.

The Fall Literary Festival, now in its fifteenth season, is sponsored by the English Department and USC Libraries. This program brings three major authors to campus over the course of a few weeks. Recent visiting authors include Junot Diaz, Susan Orlean, Louise Gluck, Scott Simon and Colson Whitehead.

The festival is sponsored by a generous anonymous donor, allowing each program to be free and open to the public. Events will be held in the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, which is accessible through USC’s Thomas Cooper Library.

Eliza Griswold will read at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 9.

A journalist and poet, Griswold has received a Guggenheim Fellowship for her ongoing work on water and poverty in America. Her first non-fiction book, The Tenth Parallel, was awarded the Anthony J. Lukas Prize and was a New York Times bestseller. Her poetry and reportage has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker and The Atlantic, among many others. Her collection of reportage and translations of Afghan folk poetry, I am the Beggar of the World, was published in spring 2014 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, with a second collection of her poems to follow.

Ron Rash will read at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 16.

A novelist, short story writer and poet, Rash is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel Serena, which was a finalist for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award. He also is the author of four other prize-winning novels, including One Foot in Eden and The World Made Straight; four collections of poems; and five collections of stories. One of those, Burning Bright, won the 2010 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award, and another, Chemistry and Other Stories, was a finalist for the 2007 PEN/Faulkner Award. Twice the recipient of the O. Henry Prize, Rash teaches at Western Carolina University.

Tony Hoagland will read at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 30.

A poet, Hoagland is known for his witty commentary on contemporary American life and culture. His books of poetry include What Narcissism Means to Me, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2003; Donkey Gospel, which received the James Laughlin Award in 1998; and Sweet Ruin, chosen for the 1992 Brittingham Prize in Poetry. His other honors and awards include two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation’s 2003 Mark Twain Award in recognition of his contribution to humor in American poetry. He currently teaches at the University of Houston and Warren Wilson College.

For more information about the Fall Literary Festival, including directions and parking information, visit http://library.sc.edu/fallfestival.html.

Join Us!

Eliza Griswold, October 9
Ron Rash, October 16
Tony Hoagland, October 30

All events take place at 6 p.m. in the Hollings Library Program Room. The Hollings Library is accessed through Thomas Cooper Library.
Grant highlights New South collections

South Caroliniana Library has received a grant to process and make available three important new South collections. Awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the two-year grant provides approximately $100,000 to process the papers of John Roy Harper, Springs Industries and Elliott White Springs, and Bishop John Hurst Adams.

“The grant is specifically for New South materials, or post-bellum materials. That is, materials from the period following the American Civil War,” said Henry Fulmer, Director of South Caroliniana Library and the grant’s principal investigator. “The three collections included in this project relate to the growing significance of the South Caroliniana Library’s holdings of twentieth-century materials and the transformation of the South from an agrarian to an increasingly urban and diverse region. Their significance extends well beyond the state of South Carolina. They document interrelated issues that make them in the aggregate more valuable than individually in that they relate to national issues of post-World War I economics and social change.”

Katharine Thompson Allen, who is a USC graduate of the Public History and Library and Information Science programs, is leading the processing project.

“John Roy Harper II was the second African-American graduate of the USC Law School following Reconstruction,” Allen said. “He became a NAACP-affiliated attorney who served as lead counsel in several prominent voting rights cases, including NAACP vs. Hampton County Election Commission, which strengthened Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Harper was also a founding member and first president of the United Citizens Party, a political group whose main aim was to elect more African Americans to positions in all levels of government.

“Harper’s collection, which came to us completely unorganized following years in storage, presents a challenge,” Allen said. “But the 188 boxes of material, which highlight his involvement in a wide variety of local African-American associations, not to mention his early life in Camden at Mather Academy, where his father taught, will give historians a greater understanding of African-American life in Columbia during the second half of the twentieth century. Not much has been written on African-American civil rights in 1970s and 1980s South Carolina, and that’s largely because collections like this one are not yet available for research.”

A second major collection, the papers of Springs Industries and Elliott White Springs, will undergo processing in the late summer and fall. Springs was a World War I fighter ace and corporate executive of his family’s company, and the collection includes the World War I diary of John MacGavock Grider, on which Springs’ book Warbirds: Diary of an Unknown Aviator is based, as well as the colorful Springmaid advertisements which made Springs Industries a household name.

The third collection comes from Bishop John Hurst Adams of the A.M.E. Church. He served as pastor at First A.M.E. Church in Seattle during the 1960s, where he was heavily involved in the local civil rights movement. Like the Harper papers, the Adams papers will significantly strengthen the civil rights collections held at South Caroliniana Library.
“The Educational Film Collection houses and circulates an extensive collection of DVDs, videotapes and 16mm films. The films are suitable for many subject areas, including history, film studies, psychology, English, business. We also have various PBS shows, like American Experience and POV. There are a lot of feature films, and a lot of fun stuff.

“We add new films consistently and we are always taking requests. You can look for our film titles in the Educational Films Database, which includes film-specific genres such as ‘Feature Documentary’ or ‘Academy Award Winner.’ Or you can search in the Library Catalog, which allows you to search for a film by author, title, subject or keyword.

“We’re here to support faculty teaching, so if you don’t see what you want in our collection, let me know and I’ll do my best to get it. If you know what you will use during the semester, we can take reservations and mail the film to you a few days before you need it. It’s an excellent way to guarantee that it will be available for you.

“We recently added several streaming databases for film, documentaries, biographies, speeches and newscasts. Films from the database can be linked in Blackboard, and they can be shown in class. Linking the films to Blackboard can free up class time, though. You can have students watch the film before class and then they come to class ready to discuss. Putting it on Blackboard also gives faculty and students the opportunity to continue to use the materials throughout the semester and to access them at no cost, anywhere, on or off campus.

“Films can still be put on reserve and students can come to the library and view them in our comfy viewing rooms. The Educational Films staff is available to take reservation requests, check out films, and help our patrons choose films that fit their educational needs. Someone is in the office on Level 3 from 8:30 to 5, Monday through Friday. You can also look at our browsing films on the Main Level, just in front of the elevators.

“A newsletter is sent out every month with a list of new films for the previous month. To be added to the monthly newsletter list, email me at ajtrepa@mailbox.sc.edu.”

FALL HAPPENINGS AT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Exhibits
“The World in 1914,” Aug.–Sept., Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Hollings Library

“Robert Marvin: Father of Southern Landscape Architecture,” through Aug. 30, South Carolina Library

“The Diplomatic Life,” through Sept. 1, South Carolina Political Collections, Hollings Library

Natural Disasters and Response in South Carolina, commemorative exhibit for the 25th anniversary of Hurricane Hugo, Sept.–Dec., South Carolina Political Collections, Hollings Library

“The Palmetto Tree: 75 years as South Carolina’s State Tree,” Sept. 8 – Dec. 22, South Carolina Library

“Christmas on the Potomac: Holiday Cards,” Dec. 1 – Jan. 16, South Carolina Political Collections, Hollings Library

Events
Open Galleries, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Hollings Library

Fall Literary Festival, 6 p.m., Oct. 9, 16 and 30, Hollings Library

Holiday Coffee, 11:30 a.m., Dec. 4, Hollings Library

Holiday Book Signing, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Dec. 4, South Carolina Library

For the latest updates on all upcoming events and exhibits, visit library.sc.edu.
THE MYERSON COLLECTION CONTINUES TO GROW

THE COLLECTING LIFE AND THE ACADEMIC LIFE BEGAN AT THE SAME TIME FOR DR. JOEL MYERSON.

“When I joined the USC faculty in 1971, the (Henry David) Thoreau section of the library was an empty space on the shelves between (Southern writers William Gilmore) Simms and (Henry) Timrod, and there was no rare book room to speak of,” said Myerson, Carolina Distinguished Professor of American Literature, Emeritus. “I do biographical and bibliographical work. Having books by the writers I study is critical to doing my scholarship, so I bought the books I needed.”

In 2003, Myerson donated those books and other valuable items to create the Joel Myerson Collection of Nineteenth-Century American Literature. In 2013, Myerson added items to the collection, including manuscripts and 19th-century photographs called cabinet cards and cartes-de-visite.

The highlight of the manuscript collection is the roughly 80 letters written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, which is more than any library possesses except Harvard University. The letters, spanning from 1824 through 1877, include one from Charleston, S.C., in 1827 in which Emerson complains of “men & women who have no particular pretentions to a religious character any farther than a decided hostility to Unitarianism, as ‘the Yankee religion,’”; one of 1848 to Thomas Carlyle about their meeting in London; and the manuscript of his poem “To Eva,” written to his first wife, Ellen Tucker Emerson. There are also manuscripts by Bronson Alcott, Louisa’s father; Margaret Fuller; Nathaniel Hawthorne; and Walt Whitman. Together, they bring the Myerson Collection to more than 200 manuscripts and 10,000 printed volumes.

“I’ve always collected cabinets and cartes-de-visites, which were photographs used like business cards,” Myerson said. “The Myerson Collection has more than 50 of these original images of Emerson, which is more than any other library, including Harvard. Having images of these writers can determine the way we read a text. For example with Emerson, an early photo suggests a handsome young man and the vigor of his text. If you use an image of him as an old man, you get something that a student of today might not want to read.”

Other items include five caricatures by Christopher Pearse Cranch based on lines in Emerson’s writings, including Emerson as a “transparent eyeball,” a famous image of Transcendentalism; a number of posters announcing Emerson’s lectures; and the programs for Emerson’s and Henry David Thoreau’s college commencements, listing their roles in the exercises.

To anyone considering the collecting life, Myerson’s advice is, “Find your subject, focus on it, and decide the depth of the collection you wish to assemble. Figure out if you can afford it, and if your spouse will allow you to do it. Then, buy everything! It’s an impossible task, and you’ll always have the fun of looking.”
Mark Volmer
Reserves
Circulation Department

“I’ve been in Reserves at Thomas Cooper Library for seven years. I like to see that look of relief on a faculty member’s face when they realize what we can do for them. We get a lot of repeat business from happy customers.

“We reserve materials for 40 to 50 classes a semester. We get a request from a professor – for books, films, photocopies they want to use in a course – and then we do detective work. If it’s an online resource, I find the link. If not, I scan library materials and address copyright concerns connected to posting these materials. We should be able to complete a request within three working days of its submission.

“We now offer reserve materials electronically. We are partnering with University Technology Services using the Collection module in Blackboard. Faculty can access their reserve information in the Content System and easily move it into their course in Blackboard. A lot of faculty post their own materials on Blackboard. They can do that, or they can choose to have us do it.

“We recently received a request from a College of Nursing faculty member where all but one of the requests was available online. I found the links and posted them on Blackboard. For the one request our library doesn’t own, we will request an electronic version of the source material and then we’ll pay for it if it isn’t prohibitively expensive.

“For the past few years we have been making available in the library all textbooks that are $100 or less for classes that have an enrollment of at least 100 students. Now we have begun to actively search for textbooks that will be used during the coming semester. Even if the courses don’t meet the criteria, if we already own the textbook we’ll put it on reserve for students.

“To start the reserves process for a course, I need a reading list and timeline from faculty. I’ll need to know what they need and when they need it. Email, call or come to the Circulation Desk to get started.”

MLIS student Lindsay Hall was the recipient of the 2013-14 Cooper-Davis Fellowship for under-represented groups in librarianship. The fellowship is co-sponsored by Thomas Cooper Library and the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS).

As a Cooper-Davis Fellow, Hall receives training and mentoring while serving as an active participant in departments throughout Thomas Cooper Library. During her fellowship year, she spent one semester working in Research, Instruction and Reference; one semester in Processing; and one semester in Collections and Acquisitions.

“The Cooper-Davis Fellowship helped me get a real feel for all aspects of librarianship,” she said. “In addition to working in different areas of the library, I’ve been able to attend meetings about acquisitions and learn how the library chooses the resources it buys. I also sat in on presentations made by librarian job candidates, which will be invaluable to me when I graduate and begin to look for a job.”
The USC Libraries have impressive map collections, but perhaps the most impressive component of those collections is not a map or series of maps but photographs – aerial photographs, to be exact.

Compiled through gifts or donated out of necessity, the collection numbers over 130,000 images and covers the 1930s through the 1980s, when satellite images replaced fixed wing flights.

The collection represents an unprecedented view of South Carolina as it transformed from a mostly rural state into a destination for tourism and manufacturing. The photos document changes to land from the damming of rivers, the construction of interstate highways, and the growth of suburbs and ex-burbs. They document the growth and change of our urban areas like Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and Anderson, and resort towns like Hilton Head and Myrtle Beach.

The aerial photographs have largely been a hidden treasure frequented by only those in the know. Transportation historians and planners, environmental engineers, real estate lawyers, and the occasional biologist or geography student, have found the photographs to be invaluable.

The collection found a home at the University Libraries through the Geography Department and donations from county extension agents. Produced from flights funded by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the photos were designed for local or regional use. As new sets of photos arrived, the working agronomist or county agent needed a place to send their older collections. Over time our collection grew.

As with any popular collection, two issues are always in competition: access and preservation. Access ensures the value of the collection and preservation ensures the collection will be there for the future. For aerial photography, the preservation solution is digitization and the access solution is georeferencing.

“Georeferencing” means to define a thing’s existence in physical space. That is, establishing its location in terms of map projections or coordinate systems. Examples would include establishing the correct position of an aerial photograph within a map or finding the geographical coordinates of a place. This procedure is thus imperative to data modeling in the field of geographic information systems (GIS) and other cartographic methods. When data from different sources need to be combined and then used in a GIS application, it becomes essential to have a common referencing system. This is brought about by using various georeferencing techniques. Most georeferencing tasks are undertaken either because the user wants to produce a new map or link two or more different datasets together.

A simple explanation comes by describing the power of georeferencing. For example, what is the history of a piece of land, an intersection, a point on a river, or an island on the coast over a period of fifty years, and how does it relate to what we know exists today? With georeferencing we can lay a picture of the past on top of a map of today. With multiple images, taken over time, we can document the changes caused by nature and man. Onto this we can layer additional information like storm surge mapping from Hurricane Hugo or the before and after effects of Hurricane Hazel, or see where new development has affected streams, rivers and bays. This can be used for making decisions about growth that have as little impact on the environment as possible.

In July 2013, the Libraries were awarded a three-year grant of $166,000 from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to scan and geo-reference our collection of aerial photography for the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The project’s main goal is to enhance access for the general public through the library’s digital collections as well as online mapping services like Google Earth and ESRI. The project also preserves the tangible collection, as most of the use will be through the electronic resources. A third goal is to raise awareness of the resources available to our students and researchers interested in the physical geography of South Carolina.

In August 2013, two graduate students from the School of Library and Information Science began scanning and creating metadata for the photographs. In January 2014, three undergraduate geography students began the geo-referencing phase of the project. In whole the project will involve three library departments and rely on the expertise of the Geography Department’s Campus GIS Program.

Top left: The Donnelly Grant team includes (seated, from left) geography students Daniel Radich and Mark Bisset and (standing, from left) geography student Angel Pitts, and Bill Sudduth and Ross Taylor, Government Information and Maps.
Music has always been very interesting to me and a big part of my life; I play the piano, and played clarinet in band through high school. I didn’t major in music because I didn’t want to teach and, although I like to play, I don’t like performing. I have bachelor’s degrees in English and psychology from USC, and a master’s degree in library and information science from UNC Chapel Hill.

“I am currently cataloging the very large, very complete Robert W. Books Collection. The first group of CDs that donor Keith Reveille sent us was 4,000 to 5,000 CDs. The second group was approximately 3,000. The last batch was 1,500, and there are more to come. At least 5,000 have been cataloged so far.

“In the Books Collection, I’ve come across things I never even thought existed. I’m constantly seeing items and thinking, ‘That’s really cool.’ The collection covers a wide range of genres, from the Music Library’s usual Western art music, to folk music, exotica, popular artists like Dionne Warwick, Gloria Estefan, the Beach Boys, Carmen Miranda, even German punk.

“If you don’t have good catalog records, you may have the best collection in the world but no one would know it. Our sound recordings are in closed stacks; the catalog is the only way to find items and the only way to let students and scholars know what is there.

“Publishers cannot always be trusted to tell you what is on a CD, so you cannot just pull information from a CD cover. You need a cataloger, one with music knowledge who will say, ‘Yes, this is this work, and it is located here.’ For music, there’s an added difficulty because it is such an international area. So I’m picking up some knowledge of German, French, Italian, Russian and Japanese along the way.

“So what music do I like to listen to? A little of everything. I like classical music, and jazz and blues from the 1920s to the 1940s, particularly with a strong piano or clarinet component; bluegrass; alternative rock; metal; old school and independent rap.”

The Music Library’s newest collection offers career advice for music majors.

“The Spark Collection is a carefully selected collection of books focusing on career development, wellness and innovation,” said Ana Dubnjakovic, head of the Music Library, which is located on the second floor of the School of Music. “Its creation was a collaborative effort between School of Music Spark Laboratory and the Music Library.” Described as the Carolina’s Music Leadership Laboratory, Spark, whose work the collection supports, aims to “prepare music leaders for the 21st century.”


“Some of the subjects, such as music education and cognition, practice tips, and the music industry, have traditionally been a part of most well-rounded music collections, but the addition of books with the focus on finance, career guides, marketing and business entrepreneurship is new,” Dubnjakovic said. “The focus on personal finance and wellness is reflective of the Spark mission to engage music students on multiple levels. In addition to browsing, Spark Collection books can be found by searching the Library catalog.”
Dr. Cindy O’Neal is at ease with everyone. She attributes that to being a student employee in Thomas Cooper Library.

“I worked at the library for five years, beginning my freshman year and continuing until I entered medical school,” said O’Neal, who graduated in 2005 and is now a surgery resident. “My job was to check out books at the circulation desk and give out information. It was a good way to learn how to talk to a diverse group of people. I directly correlate that skill to what I do now. I also learned to work as part of a group and to work with different teams, something else I do in my current job.”

A rising junior majoring in English and history, Katelyn Hayworth has worked in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections for a year and a half.

“My time there has given me a good overview of the work that goes into the management and expansion of a special collections library,” she said. “It’s provided me with experience working with a computerized catalog system, as well as handling and housing fragile items. I’ve learned the daily organizational work and assisted with events and exhibits. It’s really good experience for a variety of library or museum positions.”

For the student employees majoring in library and information science, the libraries are a real-world training ground. Carolyn Runyon worked at South Caroliniana Library for two years.

“I worked for University Archivist Elizabeth West on processing the papers of Harold Brunton, a former USC Dean of Administration, and getting his papers available for researchers,” said Runyon, who graduated in 2008 and is now a Digital Archivist at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. “As that project closed, I worked on digitizing covers of old USC football programs, and that’s where I really cut my teeth on digital collection building. I also worked with Digital Collections’ Kate Boyd.

“In my current job, I supervise students and check over their digitization work, so I set up a lot of standards and plans, such as how to digitize things, how to name files, the basic process, all of which I got from Elizabeth and Kate.”

Kevin Gilbertson worked with Boyd on several digitization projects.

“Working at Thomas Cooper taught me what it means to be a librarian – to help patrons. I watched time and again as librarians and library staff went out of their way and beyond their job descriptions to assist students, faculty and guests as much as they possibly could. This attitude of service is astounding, and I learned to strive to match it.

“I began at Thomas Cooper Library in the Reference Department my first semester of graduate school and worked there throughout my two-year MLIS program. I answered research questions in person, on the phone and via chat, and I helped students with printers and copiers.

“I learned the thrill of the hunt for answers to difficult research questions and the satisfaction of knowing that I have been able to teach someone something that can help them with their school assignments. I’m currently a reference librarian at Midlands Technical College in Columbia.

Rachel Zitzman, 2013 MLIS graduate
“While I was working on a master’s degree in history, I worked in South Carolina Political Collections (SCPC). I’m now a high school history teacher, teaching primarily U.S. History, and working at SCPC taught me many skills that I share with my students. The most basic of those is organization.

“To this day I use the filing system I learned while working with a collection as large as the Ernest F. Hollings papers. There are many layers to that system, but I can place my hands on just about any paper I need to in just minutes. My colleagues find that a little unnerving, but I know the source of that ability.

“Working at SCPC has really helped me teach both historical literacy and historical thinking to my students,” Daniels said. “It made me much more comfortable in working with primary sources myself, and that in turn has contributed to a commitment on my part to have my students work with primary sources...I’m sure they are more capable students of history because of the work I did at SCPC.”

• Drew Daniels, 1996 history graduate

“I worked on The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, The Development of the Printed Page, and The Bonneville Collection, among others,” said Gilbertson, who completed his MLIS in 2005 and is now the Web Services Librarian at Wake Forest University’s Reynolds Library. “I learned about the strategic importance of digitizing and sharing our unique materials online. I also learned about the importance of building a strong, universal web presence to ensure access, of pursuing detailed metadata to ensure discoverability, and of working collaboratively in the library and across the university to ensure success for the program. All of that is knowledge that I continue to use and build on today.”

Deborah Green appreciates the time she worked in Digital Collections.

“I got the best opportunities while I was working there, including working on the digital project for a medieval manuscripts grant,” said Green, who graduated in 2007 with an MLIS and is now the Digital Collections Librarian for Fort Hays State University in Kansas. “Fort Hays has about 10,000 students, and most of them are virtual. So you can imagine how much value I place on my time in USC’s libraries and my experience with digital and archives there.”

Ryan Fanning, a 2014 religious studies graduate, collected a whole new set of skills while working at Moving Image Research Collections.

“One of the great things about working at MIRC was seeing projects through from beginning to end, which helped me learn how to prioritize tasks and manage time,” she said. “Another bonus was being able to work with different technologies.

“It’s pretty cool to take a piece of 80-year-old nitrate film and in an afternoon turn it into a digitized file to hand to someone to watch on a DVD, or to upload onto the digital repository for people all over the world to access with the click of a button. I gained great cultural knowledge, too. I was able to view archival footage of historical people and events. It’s an incredible way to learn about American history.”

A longer version of this article, with more student stories and photos, can be found at library.sc.edu/studentslearn.
The Pat Conroy Archive at the University of South Carolina will be available to researchers in about 18 months, said Elizabeth Sudduth, Director of the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

“This is our most comprehensive literary archive,” she said. “It is an incredible treasure for researchers, including our own faculty and students.”

The collection includes family scrapbooks, personal diaries, and handwritten manuscripts of Conroy’s 11 books, including *The Great Santini* and *The Prince of Tides*. An archivist is working to process the more than 10,000 handwritten pages, as well as screenplays, correspondence, and thousands of family photographs. The archive also will include everything Conroy writes for the rest of his life.

The collection is a gift from Richard and Novelle Smith in memory of his mother, Dorothy Brown Smith, a longtime supporter of University Libraries.

“My mother believed in the value of education and the central role the library plays,” said Richard Smith. “She enjoyed reading, literature, and especially the writings of Pat Conroy.”

*Shown here: A 1997 photo of Pat Conroy and his father, Donald Conroy, the inspiration for the main character in *The Great Santini*; a typescript of *The Water is Wide* (1972) with author and editor corrections.*