Friends of Henderson Library Newsletter

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Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to help Henderson Library as a volunteer? We're developing a plan for volunteers who are Friends of Henderson Library. At certain times during the academic year, it would help the campus community to have greeters at the entrances to direct them to specific locations within the building. When there are special events occurring in the library or the community, volunteers could help distribute public relations materials, sell tickets, and answer questions. Volunteers could help staff events like the annual mini-golf tournament during fall term. If any of these opportunities appeal to you, please express your interest by calling 912.478.5115 or e-mailing library@georgiasouthern.edu.

Art and the Henderson Library by Mary Margaret Jones

The Zach S. Henderson Library houses books, computers, periodicals and artworks. On each of the four floors of the building, one can find paintings, prints and sculpture.

The tradition of purchasing and displaying art began in 1966 with the commission of an oil painting, which currently hangs behind the Circulation Desk, of then-president Zach S. Henderson by Savannah artist Christopher Murphy.

Miss Hassie McElveen, head librarian at Georgia Southern College from 1944 to 1970, provided the funding for the portrait by establishing the Naomi McElveen Art Fund in memory of her mother in 1964. The purpose of the fund was “to promote cultural growth and encourage appreciation of the fine arts among students and faculty of GSC.”

When the library was housed in the Rosenwald Building on Sweetheart Circle, one of its services was to loan art to students and faculty. Proceeds from the Art Fund were used to purchase reproductions that could be loaned.

As an endowed fund, supported by friends and family of Miss McElveen, it continues to supply money to purchase original art, primarily created by students and art faculty. Among owned works are paintings by former art faculty, Roxie Remley, Joe Olson, Stephen Bayless and prints by Bronislaw (Bruno) Bak. A number of ceramic items are also displayed in the Lorimer Reading Room on the fourth floor. The Naomi McElveen Art Library Fund (G3288) continues to accept tax-deductible donations through the Georgia Southern Foundation. You can donate to this fund or other Library funds online via http://tinyurl.com/adslibrary (a shortcut to a secure site hosted by the Foundation).

As an adjunct to the Library’s association with the world of art, a temporary exhibition graces a wall near the fireplace in the Lorimer Reading Room on the fourth floor. The seven paintings were created by well-known retired Savannah physician and, now, full-time painter, Dr. Preston Russell.

On January 22nd the Henderson Library hosted an evening of heavy hors d’oeuvres and a talk by Russell for the members of the Friends of Henderson Library. During the evening, guests were invited to view Russell’s paintings and purchase copies of his books.

In a converted carriage house behind an 1860s home in the Savannah historic district, Russell paints almost daily. His paintings “record and preserve” the events, landscapes, exteriors and interiors of houses in the low country.

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For more than thirty years, the Zach S. Henderson Library has been the hub of academic life at Georgia Southern University. In the summer of 2004, the library became the focus of an extensive expansion and renovation project to help meet the needs of the University’s growing student body. The expanded/renovated building was dedicated in January 2009.

As part of the expansion and renovation the first automated retrieval system in a library in the southeast was installed. Known as the ARC (automated retrieval collection), it is capable of storing 800,000 items in 5,848 separate bins that are stacked 45 feet high. The existing ARC contains two aisles, but there is room for a third aisle. The addition of a third aisle would increase the capacity of the ARC to 1.2 million items and the total capacity of the library to more than 2 million items.

The ARC is designed to store less-used items so more study and collaborative areas are available instead of so many traditional book stacks. Because a large majority of high use collections are in conventional shelving, patrons will find access to information more convenient. Response time for delivery of items from the ARC is only a few minutes.

Materials stored in the ARC include special collections, periodicals published before 2000 and items that have not circulated in more than ten years. It should be noted that when items requested from the ARC are returned, they may be relocated to open stacks because of increased use. Temperature and humidity in the ARC are ideal for preserving materials.

One of the primary reasons for installing an ARC in the expanded/renovated building was its ability to store materials economically. The cost for ARC storage is considerably lower than traditional shelving in on-site or off-site storage. The ARC also benefits other units within Georgia Southern by allowing them to store materials for free on campus instead of paying for off-site storage. For example, the Georgia Southern Museum has part of its collections stored in the ARC.

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Moving to Savannah in the 1970s, Russell worked for thirty years at Memorial Hospital. A seasoned traveler, he is also an historian and a writer. He co-authored with his wife, Barbara Hines, one of the most recognized books on Savannah history, Savannah: A History of Her People Since 1733. His most recent book is Lights of Madness: In Search of Joan of Arc.

Russell’s paintings have appeared in regional art shows, in museums including the Telfair and Morris Museum in Augusta and in homes across the United States and in Europe. In 1976 the French government chose three of his works for an exhibition, American Artists in Paris.

Eighty-five of his paintings are featured in his book, The Low Country: From Savannah to Charleston. Capturing the “mystique of the region,” several of the original paintings are currently hanging in the Henderson Library. With names like “Clouds at Tybee Beach,” “Pine Trees near Statesboro, Highway 25,” and “Wall Sign in Savannah with Window,” viewers will recognize these places that Russell has frozen in time.

To visit his website, go to http://www.prestonrussell.com. For a studio and gallery visit, contact him at 912-234-0201.

Farm to Table by Laura Wheaton

Mark your calendar for June 16th at 6 pm for the 2nd Annual Farm to Table Dinner hosted by the Friends! This year Chef Campbell will design a five-course menu featuring local produce and farm products paired with wine. The event is a fundraiser for the Henderson Library, as well as a showcase for the Statesboro Farmers Market and the delicious produce grown here in Bulloch County. All proceeds benefit the Henderson Library to enable it to keep pace with Georgia Southern’s growth and future research needs. Watch http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/friends/farmtotable/ for updates!
Recent Friends Events

We hope you enjoy a few photos from two recent Friends events: the Reception for Supporters in January with special guest Preston Russell and the special fundraiser “Throw My Troubles Out the Door: Bob Dylan and the Southern Musical Landscape.”

Check out all the captioned photos via http://tinyurl.com/FOHLphotos.

A Fine Romance by Dr. W. Bede Mitchell, Dean of the Library

The Zach S. Henderson Library has been selected by the American Library Association as one of 55 sites that will show the traveling exhibit, “A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965.”

The exhibit was developed by Nextbook, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Jewish literature, culture, and ideas. The national tour of the exhibit has been made possible by grants from The Charles H. Revson Foundation, The Righteous Persons Foundation, The David Berg Foundation, and an anonymous donor, with additional support from Tablet Magazine: A New Read on Jewish Life.

“A Fine Romance” will tour for a year and will be in Henderson Library from March 7 to April 20 of 2012. The Library will supplement the exhibit with selections from our collection of sheet music published between 1910 and 1950, which is comprised of more than 1,800 songs by more than 1,300 composers. We will feature compositions from most of the songwriters featured in “A Fine Romance” as well as by some lesser known figures: Harold Arlen; Irving Berlin; Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harni; Sammy Cahn; George & Ira Gershwin; Al Jolson; Gus Kahn; Jerome Kern; Leo Robin; Richard Rodgers (with Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein); Jules Styne.

An opening reception will be sponsored by the Friends of Henderson Library on March 7, 2012, highlighted by local artist Hilary Ziegler’s performance of songs from our sheet music collection by the composers being celebrated.

Additional events supporting the exhibit will include a concert by the Georgia Southern Symphony Orchestra, conducted by music professor Adrian Gnam, and a panel discussion with Professor Gnam and others on Jewish influences and participation in the early 20th century American stage.

Watch for details of these and related events in the coming months!
Due to the efforts of various library staff, compared to just a few years ago, we see fewer recyclable items in trash cans, and campus recycling staff visit the library more often than the delivery person bringing cases of toner cartridges and reams of paper. We are being green, helping our patrons be green, and saving greenbacks – for both the Library’s budget and the students’ technology fee.

In 2004 the Library purchased printing software, LPT1, that continues to save $$. With LPT1, an override is required for any print job over 50 pages, helping students from mistakenly printing an entire document off the internet when they only need one screen – which had been a regular occurrence. It also keeps non-students from printing for free. Community users can request a card for use with LPT1 so that they can print within the Library.

More savings are generated by double-sided printing and scanners. All print stations in the Library have double-sided as the default. By using a scanner, students can scan an article or photograph to a USB flash drive instead of paying to photocopy. The Library has eight flat-bed scanners, an overhead book or 3-D scanner and 2 microform reader/scanner/printers in the Learning Commons area located on the second floor.

The Library’s empty toner cartridges are sold to be repurposed. The $$ made is used to purchase books and videos on environmental topics such as sustainability as well as digital equipment for student checkout.

And for fun the Library’s Recycling Committee buys a few student Earth Day prizes to encourage them to become Southern Stewards – flash drives for sure and when funds are available an iPod Shuffle or Nano. Earth Day is officially celebrated annually on April 22nd. This year, Georgia Southern’s Earth Day celebration will be on Wednesday, April 20th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Russell Student Union Rotunda.

James Dunwoody Bulloch & Modern US Naval Strategy by Marvin Goss

On the evening of March 7th at Nessmith-Lane, Gary McKay, Georgia Southern alumnus and researcher for AIG London and Float Research UK, gave a fascinating summary, aided by PowerPoint images, of the career of “the greatest naval hero America ever forgot,” James Dunwoody Bulloch. The event was hosted by the Center for International Studies, the Center for Irish Studies and the Zach S. Henderson Library.

McKay is co-author of the first biography on Bulloch. His fellow author is Captain Walter E. Wilson, a 28-year career Naval Intelligence Officer and the current Vice President and a former President of the Navy League of the United States (Alamo Council).

Bulloch was the great-grandson of our namesake county’s Archibald Bulloch, a Revolutionary War leader with Scotch-Irish and Huguenot roots. In his youth, he entered the US Navy and sailed the Atlantic and the Pacific as a lieutenant, but on the outbreak of the Civil War, he was appointed the South’s foreign naval agent. He masterminded the sailing and sometimes escape of commerce raiders for the Confederate Navy from British and French ports, giving the Confederacy some of the most advanced vessels of the day.

Excluded from pardon after the War, he lived in Liverpool and worked as a cotton merchant until his death in 1901. His concepts of naval strategy, however, contributed to US strategy in the 20th century, as transmitted through his admiring nephew, President Theodore Roosevelt. With Roosevelt’s urging, Bulloch wrote a memoir, The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe. The Henderson Library owns this two volume set. McKay’s talk cast a great deal of light on a largely-neglected area of US history.
"Throw My Troubles Out the Door:" Bob Dylan & the Southern Musical Landscape

by JoEllen Broome

More than seventy Bob Dylan fans gathered at the Holiday Inn Statesboro on March 29th to celebrate the legendary musician and learn how Southern music influences his work. Dylan selections played and sung by Chris Mitchell of Pladd Dot Music (http://www.pladdmusic.com/) welcomed arriving guests at the Friends of Henderson Library’s Spring fundraising event. Emma’s Restaurant Chef Jason Scarborough served up truffles and other tantalizing treats.

Featured author of the evening was Michael Gray. He’s a noted blues and rock and roll critic from Britain who wrote: The Bob Dylan Encyclopedia, Song & Dance Man III: The Art of Bob Dylan, and Hand Me My Travelin’ Shoes: In Search of Blind Willie McTell. Copies were available thanks to The Book and Cranny (http://www.thebookandcranny.com/).

Georgia Southern’s own scholar and folk musician, Dr. Richard Flynn, joined Mr. Gray for the Dylan program featuring audio cuts, rare film clips and lively commentary about the singer-songwriter’s gospel, blues and country music roots. Audience members too made observations and quizzed Michael and Richard. Several attendees traveled from Macon and Savannah for this special event which raised approximately $800 to purchase library resources to support the research and scholarship of the Department of Literature and Philosophy.

Memorial Books in Henderson Library by Jonathan H. Harwell

Following the death of a Georgia Southern student, the Student Government Association contributes funds toward the purchase of a library book in memory of the student. After the Dean of Students notifies Henderson Library, an appropriate book is selected based on the information known about the student. As the Coordinator of Content Management, I choose a book that honors the student’s memory, and ideally one that is relevant to that student’s life in some way.

The Dean of Students lets us know the student’s major, and often we can glean more information from an obituary or even from Facebook or Myspace. For example, in 2008, a student passed away. His Myspace page includes this passage in “About Me”: “I have competed in equine competitions all over the East Coast, and one day hope to ride in the Olympics.” Based on this information, the Library dedicated Pita Kelekaña’s book, The Horse in Human History, from Cambridge University Press. The book has a plate, as well as a note in the library catalog, explaining that it was a gift of the Student Government Association in memory of this student, and includes his name.

Sometimes we receive donations of books or funds in memory of persons, and these books contain similar book plates and library catalog notes. These can be rather large donations in some cases, such as the collections from the estates of Mr. George Burford Lorimer, Dr. Jacques H. Robinson, and Dr. V. Richard Persico. Some of these are still in the process of being catalogued. The Robinson collection contains approximately nine thousand items.

The annual “A Day for Southern” event provides a way to donate directly to the Henderson Library Memorials fund (#0569), with which we purchase books in memory of departed friends or family members. These books also contain book plates and corresponding notes in the library catalog.

If you’re interested in making a collection donation, please contact me (jharwell@georgiasouthern.edu), and I will work with you to select and/or transport your gifts to the Library. For financial donations, please contact Dean Bede Mitchell at wbmitch@georgiasouthern.edu. You may also wish to review additional information on other funds that you may designate your “A Day for Southern” pledge at http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/support. You can donate to the Library online via http://tinyurl.com/adfslibrary (a shortcut to a secure site hosted by the Georgia Southern Foundation). This is tax-deductible.

We appreciate your support of the Henderson Library as we continue to build a 21st century research library to serve as the center of scholarship for Georgia Southern University.
Henderson Heroes: Spotlight on Employees

Debra Skinner (2001)*, Coordinator of Cataloging & Metadata and Assistant Department Head, Collection & Resource Services Department, and Fred Smith (1986), Head of Access Services, were approved for promotion to Associate Professor and Professor, respectively.

“Developing a Topic-Centered First-Year Seminar With a Renewed Focus on Information Literacy” written by Lisa Smith (2006), Information Services Librarian, with three fellow Georgia Southern colleagues, has been accepted by the peer-reviewed professional journal College & Undergraduate Libraries.


Read more recent accomplishments, including student assistants graduating in May, @ http://blogs.georgiasouthern.edu/fohl.

* indicates the year the individual joined Henderson Library.