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## July 2012: Volume 1 Issue 4

Dacus Library

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SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- News About the Dacus Library and Archives
- Photographs from Dacus Renovations

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## Progress at the Library...

One of my favorite political jokes of all time is this one: What is the opposite of progress? Answer: Congress.

I first heard the joke in the late 1980s and shared it with several people, one of whom was a professor I had who taught a course called "School & American Life," or words to that effect. Although quite political himself, he didn't care for the joke so let me be the first to apologize to anyone who might be offended by it.

But politics isn't the subject matter of this post. Rather, progress is. I begin with a political joke because this is, after all, the sultry part of our silly season (otherwise known as the presidential election cycle). With the DNC poised to invade the metropolis to our north, it struck me as an appropriate way to commence this week's post.

And speaking of this week, we've made a great deal of progress! I say "we" in the editorial sense, but the fact of the matter is that Holden is moving rapidly forward with the rest of the project. As you can see from the photographs on the next page, much has been done over the past few months. The *Information Commons* is really taking shape. It will 'house' both circulation and reference. I use house in scarce quotes because what used to be an office will no longer serve as

one. Rather the IC (you can't really be in library services and not immediately reduce everything to an abbreviation) will become a *service center*. Not only will students be able to check out and return books at the IC, but they will also get help with all the other services on this floor: study rooms, techno-booths, and the presentation/smartboard and larger group study room.

The new carpet and the laminate flooring are being laid, which will give the whole area a new and different look and feel. And what about the other floors? Our main floor has always been our main service area (the other two floors are predominantly for book storage) so it only made sense to begin here. Additionally, as mentioned above, it's the highest trafficked area of the building. We sincerely hope (hint, hint, wink, wink, nudge, nudge) that the other two floors will be upgraded soon, ... very, very soon.

The point of our commons area is so students will know immediately upon entering the building where to get help with *anything* related to research and library services. This will be the floor on which students will congregate for the 24-hour service that begins Labor Day. From midnight Sundays through 7:30 a.m. Fridays, students wishing to remain in the

library after midnight will have to move to this main floor. We hope there will be hundreds of students! Well, okay, scores anyway.

That sums up our progress for the last few weeks. For more information and regular updates go to the Dacus Library web pages and click on black and yellow heading titled "Information on Library Renovations" at the bottom of the home page.

And although I may sound something of a biblioplist hawking a nostrum so be it: I ask that you help us—and now we really do hope there will be hundreds and hundreds of you—on these renovations. We have numerous naming opportunities, or areas that you could use to honor a family member or friend. Your gift will help put us over the top on these important renovations. Please contact either me at my email ([herringm@winthrop.edu](mailto:herringm@winthrop.edu)) or our [development office](#), specifically Nate Brinkley ([brinkleyn@winthrop.edu](mailto:brinkleyn@winthrop.edu)). Remember, the changes provide [naming opportunities](#) as well as many other chances to make a name for yourself while you make our day. All contributions to our renovations also go toward our overall [Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop](#) goals. — Mark Y. Herring

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**The Dacus Library of Winthrop University** was constructed in 1969 and named for the school's first librarian Ida Jane Dacus, who served from 1900 to 1945 and was also the first person in South Carolina to receive professional training in library studies. Today the facility houses over 500,000 volumes and provides extensive online resources to support the educational and research needs of the Winthrop academic community.



## **Progress of Construction, Main Floor of Dacus Library, April-July 2012**



**Reference Desk, April 2012  
View From Back Section, April 2012**



**Information Commons, 26 July 2012  
View From Back Section, 26 July 2012**

