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FITDESKS FOR DACUS AND MORE... Michaela Volkmar

Spring time conjures up the image of new things sprouting up. Yes, the trees all around Dacus Library are blooming and very beautiful, but it's new equipment in the library, such as computers, a printer and two FitDesks that have sprung up just recently, and we're excited to tell you about these new additions.

As this article is being composed, a student is on a FitDesk using a laptop while she pedals at a moderate pace. What is a FitDesk, you may be asking? Possibly our most unique and exciting addition to the library this spring, a FitDesk is an exercise bike that has a desk attached. These bikes allow you to study, read or comfortably type on a laptop while getting some exercise. Many studies have shown that physical activity is associated with improved cognition and memory – something all college students should be wanting more of, right? So like several other universities, we decided to buy a couple for the library, hoping that students would be able to boost their brain and their health at the same time.

We've already received praise from faculty in the Physical Education, Sport and Human Performance Department and staff at the Academic Success Center who are very excited

that we've purchased Fit-Desks. Those in the Academic Success Center are even helping us promote them by borrowing one for a day and displaying digital signage and flyers advertising that the library now has FitDesks.

If we find the bikes are used often we might purchase a couple more. They don't take up much space, as they're pretty compact and easy to maneuver, and we have found them to be very quiet. Currently they are located on the main floor in a relatively open location so we can observe how much use they get, but if we get enough feedback that students would prefer them in less open spaces, we might relocate them.

Some other additions happened during Winthrop's spring break - computers were placed in four study carrels located on the second floor so that all study carrels now have a desktop computer. These small rooms are great for one or two people to have quiet study space, and already we're seeing students regularly utilizing the study rooms that have the new computers. It doesn't seem we can ever have enough study rooms, especially ones equipped with technology.

A new black and white printer was wired and set up on the second floor so that the 17 public computers located on that floor will automatically send black and white jobs to that printer. Before this printer was added, students had to go down to the main floor to retrieve their print jobs, so we thought this new printer might be a very welcomed addition for the students who loved to do their work on the quieter second floor.

Down on the ground level of the library a couple of computers which were functioning as library catalog kiosks, and therefore were limiting in what could be done on them, were switched over to fully-functioning PCs with printing capabilities. More wireless nodes were also added to address some of the wireless "dead zones."

We're still trying to get the word out about all the great new equipment we have, but students who are in here a lot already seem very pleased with these new additions. And who knows – maybe a student will come to the library to use a FitDesk who doesn't usually come to Dacus and find we have all sorts of other great resources and equipment they never knew we had!

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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.



BEACH HOUSE RAFFLE DRAWING RESULTS, MARCH 1, 2016

On March 1 in the conference room of the Dean of Library Services, Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner**, Dr. **Antje Mays**, and Dean **Mark Herring** oversaw the drawing of the winner for the North Myrtle Beach House Raffle. To assure a fair drawing, Dr. Faulkner retrieved a Winthrop student without any connection to the raffle from the Main Floor of Dacus Library to actually physically draw the winning ticket.

The winner was **Jane Gorman**, a retired medical administrator, who formerly worked for Rock Hill GYN and OB Associates. Jane is active locally in the Rotary Club and is married to **Bob Gorman**, a former reference librarian at Winthrop. After Dr. Faulkner informed Jane of her good fortune, he sent a notice out to inform the members of the Friends of Dacus Library.

We congratulate Jane as our first winner and know that Jane and her

husband Bob will enjoy their vacation at North Myrtle Beach this summer. It is reported that some friends might drop in on the vacationers.

As everyone knows, the funds raised on this activity go into the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund, which was set up to support library services at Winthrop. However, we fell far short of our goal from this activity, raising only \$3,800. Dr. Faulkner observed, "We are very appreciative of those who took part in the ticket sales, but we need to develop more ideas about how to reach our endowment goal of \$100,000 as established by the Friends of Dacus Library Board in 2013."

Anyone with any input on this matter should contact Dr. Faulkner by phone at 803-323-2262 or via email at faulknerr@winthrop.edu.

The South Carolina Mother of the Year Oral History Archives is the lat-

est Digital Commons page. The records relating to the S. C. Mother of the Year award are housed at the Louise Pettus Archives. In addition, oral history interviews were conducted with 15 living Mother of the Year Award Winners, 6 family members, and 14 prominent members of the S. C. Mother of the Year Award Selection Committee. The oral history project was conceived and executed by Dr. **Jennifer Leigh Disney**, Department Chair and Professor of Political Science and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Winthrop University, with community partners and S. C. Mothers Association President **Martha Cranford** and Treasurer **Shirley Fishburne**. The purpose of the South Carolina Mother of the Year Award Oral History Project is to document women's experiences as mothers, leaders, and women in the state of South Carolina. The voices of these powerful, dynamic, strong, and devoted women are to be collected, heard, and preserved.