



Spring 2008

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Friends of Dacus Library

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## Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume III Issue 1 Spring 2008

### Friends of Dacus Library Present Kay McSpadden Speaking on Education and the Classroom

Thursday, April 10, 2008  
At 4 pm in Plowden Auditorium\*



Kay McSpadden, Winthrop alumna, teacher, and well-known author, will discuss her recent book *Notes from a Classroom*, praised by *Publishers Weekly* for its "hard-earned wisdom, gentle humor and memorable student portraits." *Notes* chronicles Kay's experiences teaching English at York Comprehensive High School. Please come join us as Kay shares a

real-world description of a teacher's life, an insightful look at current issues in education, and her knowledge about the teaching profession.

Ms. McSpadden has taught high school English in rural South Carolina since 1977. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Winthrop University and earned national certification in English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 2001.

Since 1999 she has written op-ed columns for the Viewpoint page of the Charlotte Observer and currently writes on alternating Saturdays. Kay has written and recorded radio commentaries for WFAE, the Charlotte affiliate of National Public Radio. Her first novel, *Feeding the Ghosts*, was a finalist in the 2004 Novello Contest. She has also written several award-winning short stories and poems.

Kay and her husband, Randy, a Presbyterian minister, have two sons: Jamie, a senior at Yale, and Will, who is a sophomore at Emory.

\*Plowden Auditorium is in the Richard W. Riley College of Education in the Withers/W.T.S. Building. Guests should take the elevator to the third floor. Parking is available in the lot behind Dinkins Student Center, with entrances from Charlotte Avenue, College Avenue, or Myrtle Drive.



### Your Board of Directors

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### Book Notes and News

Bob Gorman and David Week's baseball book, *Death at the Ballpark: A Comprehensive Study of Game-Related Fatalities of Players, Other Personnel and Spectators in Amateur and Professional Baseball, 1862-2007*, has been sent to the publisher and has already been reviewed in the *Library Journal*. Bob and David are anxiously awaiting the proofs. The publishers have put the book on a fast track

to come out in June. It has been listed on Barnes & Noble and Borders, as well as Kinokuniya BookWeb, a Japanese bookseller site.



Dean Mark Herring's new book *Fool's Gold*, published last fall, discusses the fact that the Internet is not a substitute for the library. Dr. Herring researched this subject by reading over 100 books. The book was based on an article he wrote for the *American Libraries* magazine several years ago. According to Dr. Herring sale of the book is going quite well.

Another recent item that has put Dr. Herring in the news is his nomination by President George W. Bush to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board. This nomination, along with two others for this board, will have to be approved by the Senate, hopefully before the end of the year. This is quite an honor for Dr. Herring, as well as for Winthrop University!





## Memorial

By Marshall Doswell

Friends of Dacus Library has lost a good friend.

Dr. Jack H. Boger, retired dean of Winthrop's School of Education and a loyal supporter of Friends, died January 20, 2008 after a long period of declining health. He was 85.

Jack served on the Friends' advisory board from 1997 to 2004. At one time he was vice chair of the board and chairman of the program committee. He worked diligently to develop qualitative programs that would contribute to the growth of the Friends organization.

He will be missed!



## Speak Softly but Carry a Big Voice: Jack Boger

By Earl J. Wilcox

To put a slightly new twist on an old adage, Jack Boger spoke softly, but carried a big voice. With Jack's death on January 20, we will be missing his voice for humanity, teachers, poets, friends, community, church---a long list of those for whom he cared and spoke. I first came to know Jack in one of those roles, that of an educator when he was Dean of the School of Education at Winthrop, and I was Chair of the English Department. Our first meeting had potential for being unfriendly and unproductive. Thanks to Jack it was quite the opposite. My Dean (Arts and



Sciences) and Jack were at odds (a mild understatement) about which departments should teach some writing courses for students in teacher training courses. As Dean of Education, where the new teachers got much of their pedagogical training, Jack made a strong case for those courses to be taught in his realm. My dean had another view. As those negotiations unfolded, I came to know that Jack had been an English major and English teacher himself many years before moving into the administrative wing of professional education. Eventually, the University agreed that my department should teach those courses, but the wonderful outcome in those meetings was that both I and my dean came to know Jack Boger, a man whose life was devoted to compromise, understanding, and serving others. (Many years later the dean involved in those meetings became a university president, and Jack served on the Board of Trustees of that esteemed school!)

Fast forward to twenty years later when Jack has ended his career as a teacher/administrator, and I am on the cusp of ending mine, too. I was fortunate to direct an international Robert Frost conference, and Jack came out of retirement, more or less, since he never actually retired from teaching and talking about life and literature to attend almost every session of that four-day gathering. A man in his late 70s by then, Jack attentively listened and talked with the scholars, attended the workshops, and when the time came, he stood in front of that group of international Frostians and recited from memory one of Frost's endearing poems. During that meeting I think I came to know the real Jack Boger: the lover of literature as it reflects life and as he lived life. I was fortunate not long after that event to have Jack as a teacher when I was in training to become a Stephen Minister at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, a place where Jack's compassion, teaching skills, and soft voice were widely known and appreciated. In the past few years, Jack kept his dreams alive by returning to his own poetry writing (one of his many talents he had hidden from me and others) and by organizing a poetry club at Westminster Towers, where he lived the last few years with his effervescent wife, June. Jack and I exchanged poems regularly, met occasionally for chatting about each other's writing. His soft voice, his winsome smile, his luminous mind will be with me forever. At the heart of Jack's understated voice was love such as that spoken of in the Frost poem which Jack cherished, *Birches*. There Frost says, "Earth's the right place for love. I don't know where it's likely to go better." Everyone who was lucky to know Jack would surely affirm that, to paraphrase another line from *Birches*, one could do worse than be a friend of Jack Boger's.



From The Dean

### IM@Dacus

AAMF, 4get PAW, MNWH IM  
LOLWROTF.

Okay, it may look like jabberwocky, or some new form of it, but instant messaging (IM) is an old-new way of communicating among the tech-wary. Old, because even as a child I saw matchbook covers which sometimes ran ads that read: F U CN RD THS A JB ATS. (I often wondered what sort of job awaited—perhaps the Enigma Project?) But IM is also a new way of communicating online, in real time, through a computer, a hand-held device or some other form of a mobile device. IM technology today allows users to share files, send images (audio and video) as well as many other kinds of attachments.

While most readers are surely aware of this, some must be wondering why in the world I mention it here, in these august pages. Dacus launched IM at Dacus in February. While our IM is not 24-hours a day 7-days a week, it is available during most of our business hours. If students want to ask us a question, talk to us about research strategies, or simply find out about resources, they can now do this—and so can Friends of Dacus—by going to the Dacus home page and clicking on the IM link at the bottom of the page. The IM page provides a few easy steps to help you through the process.

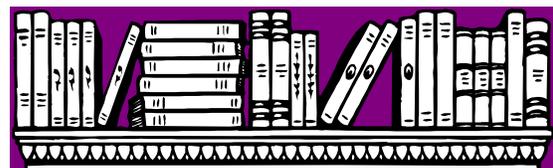
When we added IM, we didn't expect to be overrun with online inquiries, and we haven't been so far. But given that new technologies allow users to do much more without regard to place, we felt that we had to meet students where they are—and all too often we find them online. IM might work like this. A

student is online at one of the many wireless access point on campus—let's say at the new Winthrop Eagle (yes, we are wireless there!). She is trying to search one of our databases and is having a hard time figuring out what terms to use, or what an icon means. Before IM, she might have called us on her cell phone, or, failing that, walked over to see us.

With a click of a button now, she can instant message us during our open IM hours and chat with a living, breathing librarian, but online. This meets her need at the point of her need without having to wait, dial a number, be transferred, have the call dropped and so on. Is it convenient? Indeed. Is it costly? Not at all. We use a free IM service and will continue to do so until demand dictates, if ever, that we need more sophistication. Until then, students can have their needs met at the point of their need, not at the convenience of our open hours.

Nothing will ever replace face-to-face, person-to-person interaction, and we're not looking to do that. What we are looking to do is handle user needs when they have them. IM opens up that feature and is just one more way that Dacus isn't your grandmother's library anymore. It is also yet another value added feature we provide.

Now, have you figured you that first sentence?





## A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,  
If you have not seen our

dazzling web page, go to:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/about/friendspage.htm>

Thanks for the turn out of the Board members at our most recent meeting. We had a productive and pleasant meeting including lunch and discussion regarding amendments to the By-laws and other pertinent issues.

Thank you all for renewing your membership with the Friends of Dacus Library. You should have received your library card for access to the Library if you joined at the \$50 level in your renewal notification letter. If for some reason you did not receive a library card with your renewal notice, please let the staff know and you will be sent one immediately.

**Friends of Dacus Library  
Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, SC 29733**

We can never have too many Friends!

<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/about/friendspage.htm>

To help increase our membership, we are asking each friend to reach out to a potential friend, "Each one to reach one." There are many Winthrop potential friends who really need to join us and enjoy our camaraderie and the quality of our programs, activities and services to the library. At the present, we are currently 70 members strong. It would be wonderful if we could have 100 by the end of the year.

We would be pleased if current members would agree to serve on the Board. New ideas for programs and means for assisting the Library are always welcome.

Donations by the Friends this year amounted to \$5,330.00. That is a sizeable amount for our organization!

We look forward to hearing from you. Should you have some ideas for programs that would be interesting to the Friends, Winthrop and the community, please let us know.

Best regards,

Sally Archer

