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Dacus Library

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Roger Baumgarte
Speaking on April 7
About Friends
Beyond Borders:



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Here Comes the Sun ... Mark Y. Herring

As March turned to April and April is rushing to May, you'd think our work here in the library nearly done, and you'd be wrong. The summer months are among the busiest for us, not with as many students, of course, but with all we have to do to prepare for another academic year.

We'll spend a week in May inventorying our collection. Sounds easy enough but that's over 550,000 volumes. Libraries do this to make sure their collection is accurately reflected in its various access points. For most libraries today that means whatever online access is provided. Nothing frustrates users more than to search for an item only to find that the library no longer has it for whatever the reason: it was lost, someone never returned it, it was replaced by a newer edition that we forgot to order, and so on. It takes all of us in Dacus to inventory a collection this size in the week we set aside for it. After that, we'll spend time mak-

ing the necessary corrections.

In addition to summer hours, we're also looking at a retirement of one of our librarians, Bob Gorman (mentioned elsewhere in this issue). We have big shoes to fill not only because Bob is an excellent librarian, but also because he takes with him more than two decades of experience. As we do with all positions when they become available, we'll examine this one and see if we need to make any changes. Then we'll be looking for the right fit, regardless of whether the job remains the same or changes completely.

This spring and summer, too, we'll be looking at other library operations to be sure they are functioning adequately, efficiently, and as inexpensively as possible. Why inexpensively? Because every dollar we spend on making materials available is another dollar we cannot spend on actual materials. This isn't some on-the-fringe examination but a serious reappraisal of everything we do here: databases,

book orders, all our automation software and so on. It's a big task but I'm confident we're up to it.

Libraries are vibrant places, and library use is approaching all-time highs. For the year so far, we're approaching 5,000 in foot-

traffic between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m. Every day in Dacus we see a place bubbling over with activity and excitement. We know that the level of activity will only increase as the university looks to increasing overall student enrollment. But we also know that Dacus is up to this and any other challenge that may be in store for us because Dacus has always been at the vanguard of the future.

We could not do all these things—and many others—without your ongoing, generous support. Whatever funds you earmark for Dacus, for Pettus, or for the Friends memberships by joining or by renewing annually, help us make Dacus the vibrant place it is.

Are libraries obsolete? Hardly! Whether it's the local public library, a special library like Pettus, or an academic library like Ida Jane, libraries are places more alive than they have ever been before. Don't fall victim to the lie that "everything is on the Internet." In the first place, everything isn't; and in the second, what is there, once you weed out the fool's gold--all the baby pictures, cat videos, celebrity nonsense about 'conscious uncoupling' or Kardashian Kraziness, and the not-suitable-for-work or really any other time--the gold that does emerge isn't nearly as abundant as it first seemed.

If you want real gold, mind [sic] here in the library!



LEFT: AUDIENCE LISTENS ATTENTIVELY AS BAUMGARTE SPEAKS ON HIS BOOK

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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.



FRIENDS, SCHOLARSHIP, AND RETIREMENT...

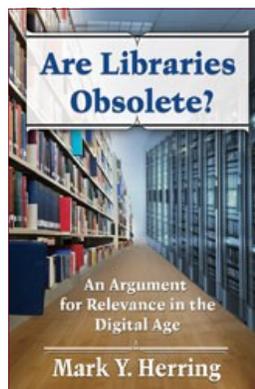
In our last *Dacus Developments* newsletter we reported that our Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund had reached \$49,503. At a recent meeting of the Board of the Friends in February, it was announced that said fund had reached the impressive new level of \$55,669 and was making steady progress toward the goal of \$100,000 by the end of 2014. In addition, the Friends group had \$5,626 in its regular account.

A number of fundraising ideas were considered by the Board, including a silent auction and invitations to well-known authors for fundraising purposes. Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner**, the secretary-treasurer of the group, indicated that he was still pursuing the possibility of world-renowned and bestselling SC author **Pat Conroy** (*The Lords of Discipline*, *Prince of Tides*, *The Great Santini*, etc.) as a possible speaker at Winthrop. He indicated that acquisition of a man of his stature to speak would have to be a University and not just a Friends event!

The Friends not only raises funds to support library services, but seeks insofar as possible to support the educational mission of Winthrop University by broadening the cultural horizons of

students and citizens in the Rock Hill community. An example of the latter was demonstrated by the two recent Friends-sponsored cultural events: The poetry reading by poet **Richard Tillinghast** on March 6, attended by about 40 persons, and the lecture on development of international friendships by Professor Emeritus Dr. **Roger Baumgarte**, based on his book *Friends Beyond Borders*, which took place on April 7 and attracted about 70 persons.

Dean Mark Y. Herring just had his book *Are Libraries Obsolete? An Argument for Relevance in the Digital Age* published by McFarland in January 2014. Herring takes as a starting point his 2001 article and related poster "10 Reasons Why the Internet is no Substitute for a Library," which he maintains have held up well over the past 13 years. Herring concludes that



libraries are not obsolete, but are continually challenged to be vibrant and enduring in the face of technological change.

After 28 years at Winthrop University, **Bob Gorman**, head of reference, will retire effective July 1, 2014. He is holder of a master's library degree from Emory and an MA in history from Georgia College. Bob has authored two dozen articles and two books. He recently co-authored with **Jim Sargent** *The South Bend Blue Sox* (McFarland, 2012) and previously co-authored with **David Weeks** the book *Death at the Ballpark* (McFarland, 2008). The latter received the 2010 Baseball Research Award from *The Sporting News* and the Society for American Baseball Research. Bob stated, "I have enjoyed my tenure at Winthrop, and will especially miss my wonderful colleagues in the library and on campus." His immediate retirement plans include travel, spending more time with his grandchildren, and continued research and writing activities.

