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Dacus Library

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**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **News About the Dacus Library and Archives**
- **Help the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund**

**IN THIS  
ISSUE:**

<b>Double the Benefits ...</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dacus Library of Winthrop University ...</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Friends Endowment: A Little Can Go a Long Way...</b>	<b>2</b>

## **Double the Benefits ... Mark Y. Herring**

**W**e have so many generous donors to the library and the archives, it's hard to figure out which ones to showcase in each issue of this newsletter. For this one, I've chosen a kind of gift that two of our donors have funded and prefer it as an example of one gift that doubles its benefits.

Some gifts go to specific purchases: books, technology, manuscripts, databases and so on. Some are unrestricted, too, and they apply to any item we need. All of these gifts are important and reap for us many benefits. But one gift gives twice, once in the giving, and again in its execution.

I speak of the endowed gifts we have for student work. Both the Dorothy Medlin Endowment Fund and the Louise Pettus Endowment Fund have stipulations for student positions. The Medlin Endowment can be used in archives or Dacus, the Pettus one in archives. We are using both this year, and the effect has been superb.

These gifts give twice, really. Once in the funds themselves and then again when we hire a student worker to work for us. We reap the benefits of their labors; and believe me, we could not get along with-

out them. Student help is the lifeblood of any library, and we are typically desperate for student help every semester (more on that issue later).

Our Pettus funds allowed us to hire a post-traditional student, Steve Blankenship, to work in the Pettus Archives. Steve handles all sorts of tasks from processing collections, answering questions, and staffing the reception desk when full-time employees are out setting up collections or making presentations. Steve recently spoke to the York Rotary Club on a collection he is currently processing, the Eugene Barnwell papers. Barnwell was mayor of York and had a very varied career. Steve regaled the crowd on Mr. Barnwell's life and civic duty.

Keith Mushonga works for us via the Medlin funds, and he spends his time processing Dr. Medlin's papers. Keith's work in this regard is instrumental. Most of the materials are in French, so we needed someone who not only could read and speak the language, but could also help us set up a collection index that would make sense to readers of that foreign language. Keith has done tireless work for us in this regard, and Dr. Medlin's papers would not be nearly

as complete as they are today without his careful attention.

Gifts such as these have far-reaching arms and wide, helping hands. I mentioned earlier that we are desperate to find student work each semester. When I arrived in 1999, we typically hired about 60-75 student workers *each* semester. Today, we're lucky to find 30! Part of this trouble resides in the government structure of student awards, another in the competition for student help in the community, and the hourly wage the private sector can pay. The Medlin and Pettus endowed funds are particularly useful to us by helping us compete. Without them, we would be not only slower getting collections processed, but more technical collections, like the Medlin papers, might be shelved for years.

All of the gifts Dacus and Pettus get are extremely important. I've highlighted but two types. We try to say thank you frequently, but we can never say it enough. Thanks to all our donors. And if you are in a giving mood, give us a call, and we'll explore ways you that your potential gift can expand and augment the work of Dacus Library and the Pettus Archives.

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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.



## **THE FRIENDS ENDOWMENT : A LITTLE CAN GO A LONG WAY ...**

A few of us have the resources to set up an endowment fund specifically geared to fund materials or projects that have a special place in our hearts. But let's face it: These are hard economic times and we are often pulled in multiple directions to give to worthy causes.

This is where an already established endowment comes in. In early 2013, the Friends of the Library Board set up the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund. Today this fund has reached \$55,669 toward our Board-approved goal of \$100,000. The Board also voted that the income not be expended until we reached that objective. The Friends set a target date at the end of 2014.

It would be great if on January 1, 2015, we could announce that the Friends had reached, or maybe even surpassed, that initial goal. We are less than \$45,000 away! For one person \$45,000 is, as they say, "a pretty good chunk of change." But you may recall the popular adage:

"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow!" Your contribution of \$50, \$100, \$200, and so on, can be considered one of those "little acorns!"

I would not be telling this story, if I had not seen this happen. At a place I once worked there was an old classroom building needing serious renovations, the floorboards even squeaked as one walked down the hall. The Advancement Office started a solicitation among decades of graduates who remembered fondly classes in that old building. In a very short time, they had raised \$3 million and started work on the upgrade. I remember walking down the hallway afterwards and thinking: "No squeaking!"

The Vice President for Advancement stated, "We had no big gifts on this project, yet we had more contributors to this effort than to any other fundraising project 2

the University has ever undertaken. Small contributions can add up!"

We are not expecting to raise \$3 million in the next few months, but surely there are many out there who remember fondly their days at the Dacus Library and would like to see Dacus continue to benefit students.

So, Friend, write out a check to the Winthrop University Foundation and put on the memo line: Friends Endowed Fund! Forward it to Friends of Dacus Library, Winthrop University, 824 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill, SC 29733. We will be very grateful and the gift will be fully tax deductible.



**A LOOK BACK : THE LIBRARY STAFF IN 1997**