



Spring 2013

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Friends of Dacus Library

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Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

Spring 2013

Friends of Dacus Library Sponsor Book Talk by Authors Bela and M. H. Herlong on April 8

Dr. Jack Weaver, Chair of the Friends of Dacus Library, announced that there will be a mother-daughter book talk sponsored by the Friends group on Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Dinkins Auditorium on the campus of Winthrop. The authors featured will be Bela Herlong and her daughter, M. H. Herlong.

Bela, a Winthrop alumna and retired educator, was recipient of the Governor's Humanities Award in 2009, recognizing "outstanding achievement in the humanities." Mrs. Herlong holds both a Masters degree and a PhD in English from the University of South Carolina.

A lifetime resident of Saluda County, Mrs. Herlong has been involved writing, producing, and directing a number of historical dramas of the county and its people. She also authored *Breaking New Ground: A Pictorial History of Saluda County* (1995) and compiled the recollections of her father in a book entitled *Padgett's My Name* (2008). Her most recent effort was co-authoring of a three-volume set entitled *Where Our Paths Crossed: The Old Edgefield District Settlement of Mount Willing* (2011). Bela has been described as "a cheerful, bubbly ambassador for Saluda County."

Bela's daughter, Madaline H. Herlong, is juvenile fiction author, who lives in New Orleans. She holds an undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and both a Masters (Eng.) and Law degree from the University of Virginia.

Her novel *The Great Wide Sea* was named one of the 2010 Top Ten Best

Books for Young Adults by the Young Adult Library Services Association. The book is the tale of three young boys' survival as they confront a storm at sea in the Bahamas. Her second novel, *Buddy* (2012), grows out of her own experiences in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This novel centers on a boy and his quest to find his dog and best friend Buddy after the destruction of Katrina.

The mother-daughter team will talk about their writing careers and their various books. The presentation will be followed by a book signing. The event is free and open to the public.

The Lutz Foundation Awards Grant for Digitization Project

The Dacus Library was recently awarded a grant of \$14,000 from the Clarence H. and Anna E. Lutz Foundation of Chester for the purchase of equipment and software needed to commence a microform digitization project in the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. These funds will make possible the selective conversion of certain newspapers and documents on microfilm, including *The Johnsonian* (1923-present) student newspaper.

The Lutz Foundation was set up to fund religious, community, and educational needs of the SC upcountry, and "to enrich as many lives as possible with the funds available each year."



Bela Herlong & Governor's
Humanities Award 2009



M. H. Herlong,
Young Adult Author

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"True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."

- George Washington



Friends of Dacus Library Board Members Effective Jan. 1, 2013:

- Joye Berman
- Ronnie Faulkner
- Janet Gray
- Doris Leitner
- Marilyn Sarow
- Jack Weaver (Chair)
- Jane White

First Friends of Dacus Library Endowment Fund Establishment Finalized

On January 15 the paperwork for the establishment of the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund was signed by the appropriate officers at the Development Office on the campus of Winthrop. This was a final step in the official launching of the fund, which had an initial corpus of \$27,000.

Dr. Jack Weaver, chairman of the Friends organization, acknowledged the generosity that had made this move possible. "This is not the achievement of one person or even one group..., but represents the contributions of many Dacus Library supporters over a number of years. We wish to thank all Friends for their part in launching our first Friends endowment. We hope those who take our place in the organization will build on this work," said Weaver. "So, again, thanks to past, present and future Friends."

Dr. Ronnie Faulkner, Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends, observed that this new fund not only would help the library, but would assure the continued viability of the Friends. "The Friends Board will vote on recommendations for expenditures from the fund," he said. "In addition, persons who wish to give via the Friends group will now have two avenues for giving—by payment of regular dues into the organizational operating account, or by contributing directly to the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund."

The new fund will be invested by the Winthrop University Foundation. The Board decided, after due consideration, that the fund needed to grow before approval of any expenditures. Contributions are being solicited.

Active/Life Members Friends of Dacus Library

Below is a complete list of those who renewed their membership in the Friends of Dacus Library by March 1, 2013. To be credited for the 2013 year, renewals had to be received after August 31, 2012. If your name is not on this list, then please rejoin by completing the form at the end of this newsletter and mailing to the address indicated or by going to the Friends web page at www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends/ and clicking on "Join Friends Now."

- Mr. Merle & Dr. Joye Berman
- Mr. Rick & Kay Carlisle (LIFE)
- Mrs. Carolyn B. Carpenter
- Mrs. Alice B. Coleman
- Mrs. Caroline B. Cooney
- Mrs. Nancy Cornwell-Daves (LIFE)
- Mr. Ian & Nancy Davidson
- Mrs. Gloria O. Crank
- Dr. Ronnie W. Faulkner
- Mr. Edmund J. & Patricia FitzGerald
- Mr. Russell Luke & Ms. Janet Gray
- Mrs. Paula Hendricks
- Dr. Mark Y. & Carol Herring
- Mrs. Deborah K. Lanus
- Mr. Rick & Kim Lee (LIFE)
- Mr. Simms & Doris Leitner
- Ms. Antje Mays
- Mrs. Joann Woods McMaster
- Mr. Randy & Kay McSpadden (LIFE)
- Mrs. Bessie M. Meeks
- Dr. Terry L. Norton
- Miss Louise Pettus (LIFE)
- Mr. Terry & Betty Plumb
- Mr. Roger & Dr. Marilyn Sarow
- Mr. Baxter G. & Joyce Simpson, Jr.
- Mr. Ed Thrasher
- Dr. Jack W. Weaver
- Mrs. Ruth K. Webb
- Mr. David A. White
- Mr. Bill & Dr. Jane White
- Mr. Earl & Elizabeth Wilcox
- Mr. Boyce & Kathy Wilson
- Mr. Henry & Gale Teaster-Woods



Friends of Dacus Library



Supporting Winthrop's scholarly community since 1996: <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends>

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A Note from the Chair...



ON CREATIVITY AND ITS ABSENCE IN THE MARKETPLACE

As parent of three adults, aide to eight grandchildren, and teacher for 42 years, I have observed a curious phenomenon. Children are very creative creatures until about middle school age and, then, they begin to become as conventional as their parents, ministers, and teachers. Is this apparent "dumbing down" process necessary to preparation of future adults? To solve problems, should not all children be taught to use both sides of the brain and even learn to communicate effectively about the art of communication? What I am

pleading for is an encouragement of creativity by means of reading, teaching, and example. Apparently, that need is even wider than I had imagined. A recent book, Jonah Lehrer's *Imagine: How Creativity Works* (2012), appears to illustrate my point. I say "apparently... appears" because I have been unable to locate a copy and have had to rely upon the summary of *New York Times* book reviewer Christopher Chabris. His bland summation, "Creativity is connected with weirdness," is, itself, a good example of the uncreative, unless he is using the word "weird" in its oldest sense (i.e., having to do with the supernatural--fate, destiny, Shakespeare's "weird sisters" in *Macbeth*, etc). But I may be more creative than either by even suggesting this possibility. Conventional thinking, remember, is condemned in the Harry Potter series as "Muggles," a creative act by J.K. Rowling.

Since creativity can occur in all fields and disciplines, is it simply "thinking outside the box" (i.e., looking in a new way at a situation or problem), or merely an unconventional way of dealing with conventional issues? The ability to use both sides of the brain is a talent human females appear to be born with and males have to learn, if they ever do. Whatever, it appears in the works of the best scientists, painters, composers, writers, teachers, architects, engineers, and techies of all kinds. If creativity IS weird (i.e., odd, strange), it is a skill the world needs more of. It might even be useful for managers; they could then encourage its practice by their employees. All of us could benefit from reading the March-April 2000 edition of AARP's *Modern Maturity*. Its subject is "Unleash Your Hidden Genius: The Science of Lifelong Creativity." The lead article by Gene D. Cohen, "C=²'s ME Squared: The Creativity Equation That Could Change Your Life," should

have been read by Lehrer before he wrote his book and perhaps by Chabris before he reviewed it. In the equation, "Creation" (i.e, C) is the result of our mass of knowledge (M) multiplied by the effects of our two dimensions of experience (i.e., E Squared). Since Cohen is writing for the 'mature,' he presupposes that by age 50 this will have been achieved. The "dimensions" are (1) "psychological and emotional growth over the years" (from reading, working and simply living, I suppose) and (2) "accumulated knowledge of life and ... wisdom resulting from it."

Is this not a healthier concept than simple weirdness? Assuming we have achieved emotional and intellectual maturity, it is manifested in four post-50 phases: Reevaluation (50's on), Liberation (60's to 70's), Summing Up (70's on), and Encore (80's on, with continued or new productivity). Cohen's insights are supported by a number of brief testimonials from worthies such as Paul McCartney, Faith Ringgold, Gore Vidal, Isabel Allende, B.B. King, and Martin Sheen. Twyla Tharp is also mentioned and the margins of both sides of the article are filled with pictures of mature creators. I miss only the pictures of writers such as Rowling, Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and a few others who treated the experiences, real and imagined, of childhood in unconventional (i.e., creative) ways. Rowling's character and group names, as well as plots filled with talented children, evil adults, and the merely conventional, recall similar efforts by Dickens and Twain. She may have been conventional herself in borrowing the name, "Muggles," to suggest her conventional characters. At least, I found a book in the British Museum Library about this group when I visited last November. The name belongs (or did, in Victorian times) to a minor caste in India. Perhaps there are degrees of Muggledom, even as there are of Creativity. --Jack Weaver

Membership Application : The Friends of Dacus Library (Mail to address in box below)

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Home Phone No.: _____
Cell Phone No. (if different than home no.): _____
Primary Email Address: _____

Class Year (if applicable): _____ Relationship to Winthrop (check one):
_____ Alumni _____ Faculty/Staff _____ Friend _____ Parent _____ Student

Amount of Gift: _____

- | | | |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| Levels: | Life (Individuals Only) | \$1,000.00+ |
| | Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only) | \$500.00-\$999.99 |
| | Patron | \$200.00-\$499.99 |
| | Sustaining Member | \$100.00-\$199.00 |
| | Member | \$50.00-\$99.99 |
| | Winthrop Student | \$10.00-\$49.99 |

If you wish to make a gift _____ in honor of, or _____ in memory of someone, please indicate whom:

Name/address of person to be notified about honor/memorial in box below:

Make check out to:

Winthrop University Foundation
Sykes House
638 Oakland Ave.
Rock Hill, SC 29733

On "For" line write:
Friends of Dacus Library