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August 2001: Moving Ahead

Dacus Library

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the dean's corner

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Moving Ahead

Dacus enjoyed another banner year

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”

Winston Churchill

Dacus enjoyed another banner year. We continued to move ahead at nearly every stage of possible improvement.

Of course, we are not “there” yet, but we are making such good progress. I thought a review of where we’ve been over the last two years might be in order.

All of us have our own timetables but those rarely coincide with external timetables imposed by conditions outside our control. For example, I wish we were breaking ground for a new or fully refurbished building, or that our materials budget were twice what it is. I wish all the foundations we applied to last year had said yes. I guess while I’m at it, I should also wish for a million dollars!

Such goals are ambitious dreams and we all have them. Our aspirations for our areas never occur fast enough but that should not deter us from recognizing goal-achievement when it arrives. Failures may mount but successes do obtain.

You’ll recognize these goals for they are

ones from Dacus’s hard-working faculty and staff and its *Building a Better Library* document, or from suggestions made by Winthrop’s hard-working faculty, staff or committed students.

Budget! Budget! With more still to go, of course, Dacus has hammered away at the budget in order to acquire and/or reallocate more than \$75,000 dollars for books and periodicals. Over the last two years we’ve purchased, owing to the hard efforts of Technical Services, more than \$30,000 in videos alone. Prior to these purchases you could count our videos on one hand.

Electronic Classroom. This \$100,000 addition was the brainchild of everyone, but Bob Gorman and Rose Davis (now in Columbia) submitted the plan with help from others. About 3,500 students are taught in this room annually, and our instruction program could not be better. Add to this our Virtual Tour devised by the Dacus Reference Team, and you have an instruction program second to none. Ours is a show-place like no other here in the Southeast!

Increased Fund-Raising. Gloria Kelley and Antje Mays’s efforts

with the Friends have succeeded in increasing the amount being given from that group.

Thanks to Gloria’s suggestion (and Antje’s follow-up), we are participating in the Bi-Lo and Winn-Dixie (through December 31, 2001) philanthropy programs based on total sales. (Harris-Teeter refuses to use colleges in its program.)

Further, Antje has done a spectacular job with the library’s development page that allows us to “contact” folks when they surf by our website. (See for yourself at <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus>, click on “Building Our Future.”) Pat Ballard has also offered very helpful suggestions in this connection along the way. Gina White and Ron Chepesiuk have shouldered a good portion of this and their efforts have yielded both funding and publicity.

The newly formed Library Advisory Board has 11 members and will continue to grow. To date, all of these efforts and those of University Relations (wills, bequests, etc.) have generated *more than* \$70,000 for the library’s coffers. So far the following foundations have proposals, or soon will: Lutz, Gladys-Brooks, Saemann,

Allbritton, Knapp, Lance, Arcadia, Arkwright, Brown Brothers Harriman, and Armstrong McDonald.

Networking. By now, owing to Larry Mitlin and Jean Wells's hard work, new or nearly new computers have outfitted nearly every service area. The new classroom, the conference room, and the commuter room all have connections as well. In addition to that, **wireless access** is being piloted even as we speak! Further, by now you've used the new Dacus webpage. We hope you'll find the new page more intuitive and easier to navigate.

New Copiers. Yes, that's right. The initial request came from the Library Committee but not before it had long been agonized over by all of us here. After more than a decade, however, four brand new digital copiers are in place and operational, replacing the seven often broken copiers.

New Periodicals/Databases. We asked for faculty input last year and did we ever get it—to the tune of \$100,000 in new titles. Watch your e-mail for news. We can't add everything, obviously, but we've begun an incremental approach that allows for some few new titles in many areas. The Collection Development Committee has been hard at work making these changes. No one has worked harder than Gale Teaster-Woods in this regard. Gale's done a great job, and the Committee has worked hard. Improvements

in this area are at long-last imminent.

Refurbishment of the Library. About \$200,000 was spent on much-needed new paint, new carpeting, new furniture and the like in 1999-2000. The building now has a better, cleaner and more appealing look.

Renovated Conference Rooms. Dacus faculty Susan Silverman, Gloria Kelley and Bob Gorman outlined why this was a great need. Our old conference room looked pretty grim and, further, we had no place to put student groups who wanted to view videos. Both are now in place and are serving students and faculty well. The commuter room has also been equipped as an alternative teaching area and doubles as a meeting room, complete with LCD equipment.

Space. After an excellent report on space by Susan Silverman (call the library if you'd like your own copy, or see it on Reserve) we are now poised to make some decisions about short-term solutions to our critical space shortage. We'll need your ongoing patience as we look to temporary solutions while we scour out funding sources for more permanent ones.

None of these things could have been done without the support of the administration or hard-working Dacus staff to make them happen. Everyone to a man or woman has shouldered the responsibility to provide you with the best service we can. Do

we feel that we have "arrived"? Heavens, no, and doubtless we never shall. But over the course of failures, successes eventually come. Only a few of the more prominent ones have been included here.

I began with a Churchill quote and now end with one. I believe by now it's apparent that we are moving ahead, making progress. It should be obvious by now that if you, "Give us the tools ... we will finish the job!"

Getting To Know Us
Ellen Owens. Serials, Technical Services. Holding the honor with another co-worker, Dot Barber (see future issues) for having been here the longest, Ellen has served Dacus and Winthrop faculty, staff and students for *thirty-one years*.

If you've ever used a periodical, ever located one online, or ever looked at a newspaper, chances are you've handled Ellen's handiwork. Her work requires a strong love of change, a heavy dose of patience, and a willingness to let chaos reign every now and again, because it will regardless.

Serials are as changeable as changelings, and what fell into a regular routine yesterday may be irregular, lost, missing in action or simply have "disappeared" today. Multiply this by about 1,000 titles and you have a day's work in Ellen's chair. And she's done this for more than three decades!

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

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