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Dacus Library

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**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- **News About the Dacus Library and Archives**
- **Friends Beach House Raffle Drawing on March 1, 2016**

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## **The Focus of Dacus... Mark Y. Herring**

Some years back we had a newsletter called *Dacus Focus*. Now I know just looking at the title one might be prompted to say that its focus was Dacus. In some way, that was true. We spent a lot of time talking about what was going on in Dacus in *Dacus Focus*, but that really wasn't the emphasis of that newsletter. Like everything we do here at Winthrop, *Dacus Focus* was about one thing: Students.

Every decision we make, everything we do, all our efforts, are focused on making what we have here in Dacus better for our students. Of course, we also do things with faculty in mind, but as a teaching university, our main concern isn't so much for faculty research as it is for student access to information. In doing so, we also make information and research available to faculty, staff and even the greater Rock Hill community. These groups are both secondary and tertiary to our primary focus, but they do remain within our ken.

Our students must be able to get at the information we or others have, and have a safe, quite place to access that information. Not to ring our own bell too loudly, we do a very good job of that. We have twelve librarians on staff, most

of whom put in some hours at the reference desk. We have an additional 14 staff in Dacus and Pettus who are as attentive to this focus as are we. All of us work hard to meet our students' research needs as fully as we possibly can. Those needs outstrip our means—and they always will even if we had twice what we do now. By drawing on our resources and the resources of PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries), it's rare—very rare—when we cannot meet the demands of our main constituency.

In addition to providing these services, we are also open 24/5 during the school year. For the first time since offering 24/5 service, this year, during exam week, we're also opening up all three of our floors. So, for about eight days, our students will have the entire building to use for study, research and review.

We moved to 24/5 in responses to student inquiries, and we're offering the three floors for the same reason. We cannot meet every request they make of us—only last week I was asked if we would put a café in Dacus (we can, but it would cost us about \$25,000 that we do not have).

Nevertheless, we routinely survey students to see what they like and don't like about our services.

This semester, we piloted a "Book a Librarian" program, wherein students make appointments with a librarian of their choosing for one-on-one research assistance. This idea, the combined product of two of our librarians, Michaela Volkmar and Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard, allows students one hour sessions with a librarian to design research strategies, better understand our databases, and find out about services beyond Dacus. For most of us over forty, such a program sounds astonishing—if only we could have had that when we were in school! We also provide laptops and iPads for students who want them, and we even have a GoPro camera for students to check out, literally and figuratively.

The focus of Dacus therefore remains our students. It's what Winthrop is all about, and has always been all about.

We wish you all the best this wonderful holiday season.



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**Mark Y. Herring, Dean of Library Services**

**Ronnie W. Faulkner, Development Librarian**



**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' BEACH HOUSE RAFFLE LAUNCHED, DRAWING MARCH 1**

As everyone should know by now, we were authorized by the Office of the S.C. Secretary of State to conduct a raffle as a fundraiser for the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund. The official launch of ticket sales took place at the Annual Friends' Meeting on October 5.

Our goal is to make significant progress toward **\$100,000** in our Friends' endowment which currently has just over **\$68,000** in assets. To encourage purchases, Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner**, secretary-treasurer of the Friends organization, offered a membership bonus to those who purchase a \$100 ticket. This bonus includes one year of membership in the Friends with said purchase.

In a recent mailing to the Friends group, Dr. Faulkner related growing up as the son of a poor functionally illiterate father and how being an American blessed him with the opportunity to attend college and work in academia. He also related his par-

ticipation in a recent successful fundraiser by the Rotary Club of Rock Hill to provide a water system to a Honduran village so that 50% of their children would not die of water borne illnesses. Growing up in the USA, Faulkner noted that he had never personally known anyone who died from drinking tainted water. He continued:

"Why am I bothering to tell about these things...?"

"Let's face it: If you are reading this email while living, working, or being retired in these United States, then you are one of that fortunate few on this planet to be an American. Over the years, I have known and worked with quite a few naturalized U.S. citizens and I have always been struck by how appreciative they are to have all the benefits of citizenship that most of us take for granted.

"One of these fortunate souls has expressed to me more than once a special gratitude for being in the United

States. That person repeated this once again while presenting me with a \$100 check for a raffle ticket to support our Friends of Dacus Library Endowment Fund. Really, could I, or any of us as native born Americans contemplate doing less?"

If you want to help the Friends of Dacus Library in our endeavor to raise endowment funds, then contact Dr. Faulkner at [faulknerr@winthrop.edu](mailto:faulknerr@winthrop.edu) or call him at 803/323-2262 for your raffle tickets. For details and pictures of the beach house visit: <http://tinyurl.com/DacusFriendsRaffle>.

### **NORTH MYRTLE BEACH HOUSE**

