



Fall 2013

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Friends of Dacus Library

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Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2013

Kitty Wilson-Evans Speaks and New Life Members Recognized

Kitty Wilson-Evans of Lancaster, an educator, storyteller, Winthrop alumna, and slave re-enactor, performed for the Friends of Dacus Library of Winthrop University at their annual meeting on October 7. About 50 members were both entertained and informed by the talented and classically trained re-enactor.

Mrs. Wilson-Evans related the story of William Campbell and his slave John Broddy of Abingdon, Virginia. John went off to fight in the Revolutionary War with Campbell, who gained fame at King's Mountain, and saved his master's life at least ten times. After the war, Campbell told Broddy that he was henceforth a free man. Broddy replied, "I never considered myself a slave anyway!"

Wilson-Evans also recounted picking up a rock along an isolated path of the underground railroad in N.C., which she often shows to children when she talks about the subject. "They can better understand the plight of those fleeing to freedom because of the physical connection that rock represents," she said.

She also spoke of the religious motivations of slaves, who believed that God would one day free them, just as he had the Hebrew children: "If we are faithful, God will deliver us!"

In addition to Mrs. Wilson-Evans presentation, the following Life Members were inducted: Jayne Marie Comstock (the 10th President of Winthrop University) and Larry Williamson, Alice B. and Byrns Coleman, Caroline B. Cooney, Janet Gray and Russell Luke, Joyce Plyler and

Mark Horoschak, Cindy and Paul Nigro, Jack W. Weaver, and Ruth K. Webb.

The following officers were elected at the Friends of Dacus meeting: Dr. Jane White as Chair and Ms. Janet Gray as Vice-Chair. The following Board Members

were elected: Alice B. Coleman, Kay McSpadden, Cindy and Paul Nigro, Joyce Plyler, and Ruth K. Webb. Dr. White thanked outgoing Chair Jack Weaver for his service.

Dr. Ronnie Faulkner, secretary-treasurer of the Friends, reported that the organization had a successful year. Starting with \$25,634, the group had reached total assets of \$51,045, of which \$41,137 was in the Friends Endowment, which was set up last January with an initial deposit of \$27,000. He noted that there would be no expenditure from the new endowment fund until it reached \$100,000.

After Faulkner's remarks, Library Dean Mark Herring indicated that there had been a great increase in library usage in the past year, with an average of 40,000 users passing through the library in the most recent month. He credited this to the improvements in the facility in 2012 and the introduction of 24-hour access to the main floor from Sunday at 1 p.m. until Friday at 7 p.m.



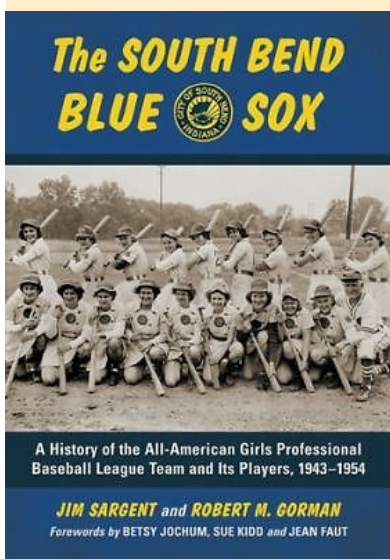
Kitty Wilson-Evans During Presentation at Winthrop on October 7



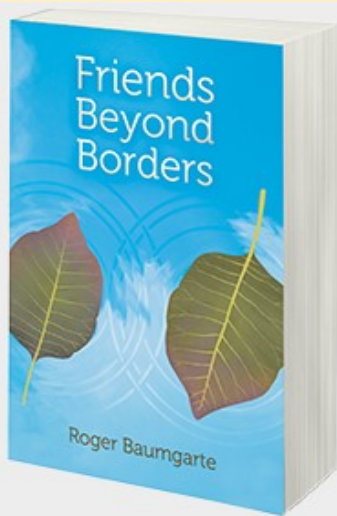
President Comstock New Lifetime Friend

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Bob Gorman Co-Authored a Book on an Outstanding Team in the All-American Girls Baseball League, 1943-1954



Roger Baumgarte, faculty emeritus of Winthrop University and Friends of Dacus Library Member Published a Book on Foreign Friendship in September 2013

Friends Board Meets and Discusses Plans for 2014

On November 5, the current Friends of Dacus Library Board met at the Library to review plans relative to 2014 activities of the organization. Dr. Ronnie Faulkner thanked Chairman Jack Weaver for his stellar service and indicated that incoming Chair Jane White had some “pretty big shoes to fill.”

Dean Mark Herring then gave a brief report on the Dacus Library, emphasizing recent staff hiring and reorganization. Phillip Hays was hired as an Library Specialist in cataloging and Cody Willis as Archivist-AV Librarian. At the same time, Susan Silverman became Assessment Librarian, David Weeks stepped up to Head of Public Services, and Jackie McFadden assumed information literacy oversight.

The business portion of the meeting involved several issues. First, the Board voted to transfer funds from the regular club account to the endowment fund, bringing the latter to \$49,503. Second, the Board authorized Faulkner and White to pursue speakers for the Spring and Fall of 2014. These included author Pat Conroy, poet Richard Tillinghast, and former WU professor Roger Baumgarte, who just authored *Friends Beyond Borders* (2013). Third, the Board approved the mailing of fundraising and renewal letters to the Friends of Dacus membership, and likewise approved a special fundraising effort to be sent to 633 teachers/librarians with Winthrop connections in the S.C. counties of York, Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, and Union, as well as the N.C. counties of Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union. Marilyn Sarow proposed a special brochure needed to be prepared for the mailing to educators and that was accepted.

Bob Gorman on South Bend Blue Sox Baseball Team at Pettus Archives

On October 21, Bob Gorman, Head of Reference Services at Dacus Library, spoke in the Pettus Archives about the South Bend Blue Sox, a team in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which existed in the 1940s and 1950s. Gorman co-authored a book about the team with Jim Sargent. His talk entitled “Skirts, Dirt and Diamonds: the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League” was connected with an Archives exhibit consisting of memorabilia from local players.



In his remarks, Gorman noted that businessman Phillip K. Wrigley created the girls league in response to the departure of many male baseball players to fight in World War II. He emphasized the trail-blazing nature of the young women who left home to play professional sports in the period.

His fascinating account concentrated on the two Blue Sox players with Rock Hill connections: late 1942 Winthrop graduate Elizabeth “Lib” Mahon and Jean Faut, a native of Pennsylvania who moved to York County after her baseball career. Faut, who was a championship pitcher for the team, was present to answer questions about her career after Gorman’s talk. Her marriage to the team manager Karl Wunsch presented special challenges both on the field and in her home life.

Gorman also co-authored with David Weeks, current Head of Public Services at Dacus, *Death at the Ballpark*, which received the 2009 Sporting News-SABR Baseball Research Award.



Giving Thanks ... Dean Herring

“I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual... O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment.”

---Henry David Thoreau

Normally I would use this space to talk about our accomplishments, or to indicate a new path that would require us to explore new ways to support it. But not this time. I want to use this column to say thanks. It is after all Thanksgiving.

I'm not sure when it occurred, exactly, but Thanksgiving has fallen through the cracks. Once Labor Day passes, it's suddenly Christmas after one brief nod to zombie-mania, a nod that would be forgotten had it not been for all those walking dead books. But Thanksgiving, over the last decade or so, has gotten smaller and smaller until it has disappeared. It isn't a day that requires gifts so it has "little" commercial value. That is surely one reason. But could another have anything to do with the fact that most of us have a hard time saying thanks?

Perhaps. So let me say it boldly, plainly, and in all caps: **THANK YOU**. Thank you for supporting Winthrop in whatever way you do, even if it isn't the library or the Friends of Dacus. And thank you so very much if you do support us. Thanks for the time you put in coming to our events. It isn't much fun to have them if no one shows up. Thanks, too, for your willingness to serve on committees, or to serve on the Friends' board. Even if you don't serve on any committee or group, but come to plays, sporting events, or alumni weekend, thank you for doing so. And finally, thank you for supporting us with your hard earned money. It means so much to us and we should say it often, in many different ways, so here goes: *Merci, Faleminderit shumë, Qagaasakuq, Danks, Grazie, Gracias!*

I remember a time when private universities, and only a handful of public ones, routinely asked for funds. Budgets were ade-

quate to cover costs. I recall a time, although I had only just begun my college career, when a book budget of \$30,000 would buy thousands of books. I can recall a time, too, when a new initiative could be commenced with a few dollars. That was a time when tuition covered much of the cost of higher education, and when state legislatures allocated more than enough funds to allow public institutions to do their work.

But as everyone now knows, all of that has changed. State-supported institutions have now become state-tolerated ones, and \$30,000 will not cover the cost of some library databases. Costs have risen dramatically for all of us, and we now live in very unstable economic times. Having said that, it's all the more reason to say thank you, thank you, thank you, whether you give a few dollars or a few hundred.

As I sit around the Thanksgiving table this year, I will have a lot to be thankful for, as I always do. We'll have our children and our four grandchildren, some friends I hope and, of course, the wonderful food this holiday inspires. But I'll also have all of you on my mind as I say thanks.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for all of you and all that you do for Winthrop University.

“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.”

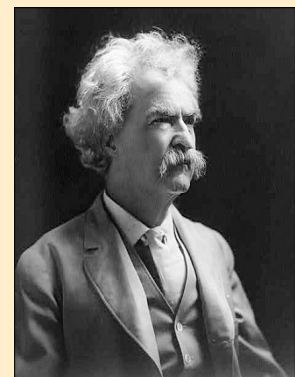
**— Jorge Luis Borges
(1899-1986)**



Dean Mark Y. Herring



Dacus Information Commons, Library Main Floor



“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.”

— Mark Twain



Friends of Dacus Library



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

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

A Note from the Chair

Dacus Library
824 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 803/323-2131
Fax: 803/323-2215
www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends



Board Members Effective Jan. 1, 2014:

- Joye Berman
- Alice B. Coleman
- Ronnie Faulkner
- Janet Gray (Vice Chair)
- Doris Leitner
- Kay McSpadden
- Cindy Nigro
- Paul Nigro
- Joyce Plyler
- Ruth K. Webb
- Jane J. White (Chair)

Some of you may recall that, in my last "note," I said goodbye. Dr. Faulkner reminded me that my term of office ends with the calendar year, however, so here I go again.

Though tempted, I will not compare my situation to that of the operatic heroine (e.g., Aida or Juliet) who must be gotten off stage by some means acceptable to the audience but, though dying, must sing one last aria and end it on a high C! Instead, allow me to illustrate our situation with an academic anecdote. During the last years of my service as Director of the M.A. program in English, I had the pleasure of teaching and getting to know a journalist by the name of Mike Powell. When he received a B.A. in English from Western Carolina University , his advisor (an old friend of mine) told him, "Congratulations, Mike. Now you can read and write."

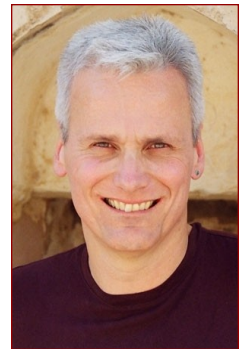
The director was not belittling the degree WCU offered or the state of Powell's learning while receiving it. He was simply suggesting what a student audience told T.S. Eliot when he returned to deliver a speech in Missouri: "You've come a long way from St. Louis." Eliot said he recognized that fact but was not happy with the next line: "but Baby, you still have a long way to go!"

Applied to the circumstances of our status as Friends of Dacus, however, both Powell's teacher and Eliot's fellow Missourians were correct. We have come a long way but we saved more than a little travel for the next chair, Jane White, and those of you who will be her helpers. We did have some good and interesting programs, we combined two library help groups, we developed and adopted by-laws to give the organization legal status, we managed to set up an Endow-

ment Fund and allowed it to grow to an acceptable amount, we began consideration of possible speakers for the Spring meeting, and we began thinking of ways to add more funds to the Endowment.

You will be hearing more about these continuing and new projects in notes from the Secretary/Treasurer and the Dean of Library Services, I feel sure. And you should. For Dacus to prosper, as with Mike Powell's education, its Friends must continue to work.

For the record, Mike Powell worked all day as a reporter for his hometown newspaper, the Lincolnton something or other, and achieved an M.A. in English by taking only classes in the late afternoon and evening. He now has a weekly economic column in the Sunday *New York Times*. He uses pictures (always two or three) of comparable houses in three different cities and lets us know what the housing markets are like in our economic recovery days. He has come a long way and continues to achieve, while his two teachers are both retired. Keep him in mind, though, for some future program of the Friends. When you do use him, let me know and I will return to help swell the audience. And, though tempted, I promise not to sing, at least not in a soprano voice.



Michael Powell,
New York Times
columnist and
former student of
Dr. Weaver

All good wishes,
Jack W. Weaver
Chair of Friends of Dacus,
2011-2013
Emeritus Professor of English

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: _____ **If you would like your gift to go to the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund (Check):** _____

- 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
302 Tillman Hall
701 Oakland Ave.
Rock Hill, SC 29733**

**On "For" line write:
Friends of Dacus Library**