



Summer 2016

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Friends of Dacus Library

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# Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1

Summer 2016

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING TO BE OCTOBER 3

The Friends of Dacus Library will hold their annual dinner meeting at 6 p.m., October 3, 2016, in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. **Gregg Hecimovich**, who will speak on his forthcoming book, *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of The Bondswoman's Narrative* slated for publication by Ecco/HarperCollins in 2017.

Dr. Hecimovich is Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Winthrop University. He spent a decade of research in order to determine the true author of the nineteenth century book *The Bondswoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts. It turned out that the actual name of the author was Hannah Bond, a fugitive slave who escaped in 1857 from her N.C. owner, John Hill Wheeler. Wheeler was a well-known Tar Heel planter, attorney, politician, and amateur historian, best known for his book *Historical Sketches of North Carolina, from 1584 to 1851*.

Hecimovich, a Charlotte native, is author of a number of books, including *Puzzling the Reader: Riddles in Nineteenth-Century British Literature*, *Austen's Emma*, and *Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles: A Reader's Guide*. He has spoken widely on his detective work that forms the basis for



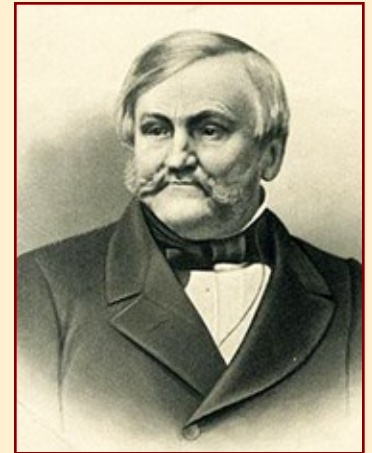
his forthcoming volume. Members of the Friends group should find Hecimovich's talk both interesting and very informative.

Election of Officers and Board Members of Friends will also take place at the October meeting. For health reasons Chair Dr. **Jane White** has decided to step down at the meeting, so we need to fill her shoes. The following persons have very kindly agreed to serve and have been approved for nomination by the Board:

Ms. **Janet Gray**, professor of theatre, for Chair (2017); and Dr. **Kelly Costner**, associate professor and coordinator of middle level education, for Vice Chair (2017). The new Board Members will be: **Spiro Shetuni**, librarian and professor, will serve the remaining one year of Costner's term. Alums **Kim Lee**, a music teacher, and **Sandra White** will serve the two remaining 2017-19 terms. Both have previously served on the Board. Under the bylaws librarian Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner** is the permanent secretary-treasurer of the organization and is not subject to election.

We hereby issue a special thanks to Dr. **White** for her service and generous financial support while serving as chair and to **Kay McSpadden** for her full term of service on the Board.

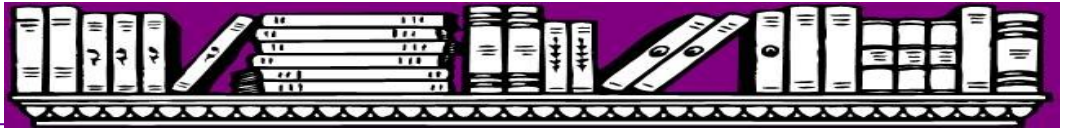
In addition to the elections, other business will be taken up at the meeting, which will include the treasurer's report by Dr. Faulkner and a report on Dacus Library by Dr. **Mark Y. Herring**, Dean of Library Services.



**John Hill Wheeler, the Tar Heel planter who originally owned former slave and authoress Hannah Bond, the subject of Hecimovich's forthcoming book**

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**On the right is an excerpt from what will constitute chapter 1 of *The Centennial History of the Rotary Club of Rock Hill*, currently being researched and written by Dr. Ronnie W. Faulkner. It indicates the prominent role played by Dr. D. B. Johnson in bringing Rotary to Rock Hill.**



**DAVID BANCROFT JOHNSON, FOUNDER & FIRST PRESIDENT OF WINTHROP AS WELL AS FOUNDER & FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROCK HILL, S.C.**

## **D. B. JOHNSON AND ROCK HILL ROTARY 1918**

On the evening of Thursday, December 12, 1918, a group of distinguished citizens gathered at the Carolina Hotel in Rock Hill to have a meal and organize a local Rotary Club. The meeting was months in planning and had been delayed, according to *The Rotarian*, "until David Clark of Charlotte was appointed District Governor [Howard] Rondthaler's special representative to complete the organization work." Other causes, such as the Liberty Loan drives and the flu epidemic, were also indicated in a December 10 letter that went out to local leaders inviting them to the organizational meeting.

The new club, the fifth in the Palmetto State, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Charlotte and was the very first offspring of that club. Clark, president of the Charlotte Club in 1918-1919 and deputy district governor for the seventh district (consisting of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), was on hand to oversee the organizational meeting. Clark, as described by a colleague, was "a stern, serious man... [who] took to Rotary like a duck to water and was instrumental in the formation of many Rotary clubs. It was extremely difficult to call Dave by his first name and he didn't seem to encourage it."

Clark, a textile manufacturer whose business failed in the panic of 1907, became a chief organizer of the Southern Textile Association (1908). His greatest success, however, was as a conservative pro-business journalist. He founded and published of *The Textile Bulletin*, starting in 1911, and was president of Clark Publishing. In his later years, he became associated with and strongly supported the political aspirations of Strom Thurmond.

The man who presided at this first meeting and was instrumental in promoting the idea of a Rotary Club was Dr. David Bancroft "D. B." Johnson, a native of Tennessee, graduate of East Tennessee State University, and president of Winthrop Normal and Industrial College, the local school for women that had moved to Rock Hill from Columbia in 1895. He had founded the institution in 1886 as Winthrop Training School, a normal school for teachers and according to one associate "almost single handedly built and perfected the institution." Johnson obtained financial backing for the school from the Peabody Fund of Boston, chaired by Robert C. Winthrop, a lawyer, former U.S. Congressman, Speaker of the House, Senator from Massachusetts, and lineal descendant of Governor John Winthrop. The school was named for its first benefactor. As a result of considerable effort, Johnson also gained the backing of Governor Benjamin R. Tillman and a state appropriation for his institution. He remained faithfully at his post, educating young women, until his death the day after Christmas in 1928. "If you educate a man, you educate a man," said Johnson, "but if you educate a woman, you educate a family."

The officers were elected as follows: Dr. David Bancroft Johnson, educator, as president; Oscar Kell Williams, newspaperman, as vice-president; P. Wylie Spencer, savings and loan official, as club secretary-treasurer; and local physician Dr. W. Gilmore Stevens as sergeant-at-arms. A nine member board of directors was also elected and included the two highest officers and seven others as follows: Robert Edwin Barron, Richard Clyde Burts, Dr. W. Wallace Fennell, John E. Gettys, Theodore A. Moore, John W. O'Neal, and William J. Roddey.



# Friends of Dacus Library



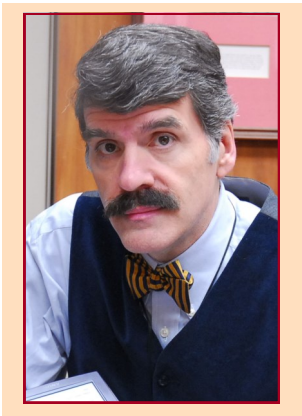
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## WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

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**Fax: 803/323-2215**  
**<http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/friends>**



**Dean Mark Y. Herring**

### RHYTHMS OF A NEW YEAR

**Board Members**  
**Effective Jan. 1, 2016:**

- Marsha Bollinger
- Michelle C. Chase
- Kelly Costner
- Nancy Davidson
- Ronnie Faulkner
- Janet Gray (Vice Chair)
- Kay McSpadden
- Terry L. Norton
- Joyce Simpson
- Jane J. White (Chair)
- Sandra White

Unless you're a teacher, what you're about to read will make little sense. But if you are one, especially someone who works in higher education, then I believe you will find some resonance. It's part of the reason academics are sometimes referred to as not living in the "real world." Our year isn't quite the same as everyone else's. For most, the salt mine's hours are the same, every day, every week, every month, and every year. The only interruption is the proverbial two-week vacation that comes generally in the summer. But for many who work in higher education, there is a rhythm to the year and it begins every fall. The middle of August is, well, an august reminder of what's coming, in an avalanche, in September and the months that follow.

If you're a teaching academic, everything begins to wind down around mid-May and doesn't really resume until mid-August. Granted, these are not twelve weeks free of responsibility. Most of these weeks are spent by teaching academics working on research, visiting libraries for same, or visiting other countries in which only there can their research be done. And for most teaching academics, those travel costs are personally absorbed. For some academics, there is summer teaching, a must in order to cover the summer months. The myth of the academic with her feet up doing nothing all summer is just that: a myth. Sure, some may be well enough off to spend the summer in Monte Carlo sipping martinis but in forty years of working in the groves of academe (some might call it "graves") I have never met one.

Having said all that, if you're a librarian, you work all summer; it's what you do, to quote the Geico commercial. All Dacus and Pettus faculty and staff have twelve month appointments, so all our summers are spent here, toiling away doing all those things that the very busy fall and

spring make impossible. We still have students to serve, yes, but they are many fewer than the fall or spring terms. Our summer this year has been spent making corrections and doing cleanup after our migration to a newer, and far less costly, online system.

Still, there is a halcyon rhythm to the startup of a new year. Offices that have been semi-dormant since May are suddenly bustling with activity. Emails that have been like summer rain showers—random and intermittent—are suddenly a torrent of questions, information, and meeting assignments. Like ants racing for some morsel, individuals who have been elsewhere begin to appear everywhere.

To be honest, I love this time of year. I love its rhythm. The seasonal inactivity gives way to a fervid flurry of students, faculty and staff jockeying for their fall assignments, classes, dorm rooms and more. Frankly, I love fall and winter more than spring and summer. While I am a very active runner and hiker, I still prefer the cool, autumnal air of fall, and the frigid frost of winter to the sneezing staccato of spring and the stifling hidrosis of summer. While your Dacus staff have been involved in a beehive of behind the scenes activity, they look forward to serving you, up close and personal. We have a great lineup of Friends of Dacus events, including our own Gregg Hecimovich and his soon-to-be best seller on the bondswoman's story.

The other reason I love the rhythms of fall is that during the summer hiatus, we do not hear from many of you. I hope now that the new year is beginning, we'll see our dear and devoted Friends the way we have every year I have been here. There are so many, many ways you can help us and I hope you'll call on us to find out at least one of those.

We hope your summer has been restful and you are ready to, along with us, jump into the rhythm of fall. I know we are!

**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-\$999.99
	Patron	\$200-\$499.99
	Sustaining Member	\$100-\$199.99
	Member	\$50-\$99.99
	Winthrop Student	\$10-\$49.99

Your contribution receipt will provide specific information about any benefit that would affect your tax deductible gift.

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 payable to:**

**Winthrop University Foundation**

**Mail to:**

**Winthrop University Foundation  
302 Tillman Hall  
Rock Hill, SC 29733**

**In memo line of check write:  
Friends of Dacus Library**