Summer 2017

Friends of Dacus Library

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The admirers of widely-known Palmetto State naturalist Rudy E. Mancke will recall his well attended speaking engagement at Dinkins in the spring of 2015. He will be returning to campus again on Monday, October 2, 2017 to speak at the annual Friends of Dacus Library meeting to be held in Tuttle Dining Room of McBryde Hall at 6 p.m.

Mancke, best know for his popular SC-ETV program NatureScene, was given the state’s first Environmental Awareness Award and was recognized in 2016 as the University of South Carolina’s first naturalist-in-residence. His nature program ran for 23 seasons (1978-2002) and was broadcast nationwide. After he stopped that broadcast, he started broadcasting short Nature-Notes on TV and radio.

Mancke, a native of Spartanburg, started the State Museum’s natural history collection in 1975. He thereafter taught at USC. He officially retired in 2008, but continued to serve part-time as an adjunct instructor, teaching the popular undergraduate course “Natural History of South Carolina” as well as a grad natural history seminar.

Rudy earned a degree at Wofford College and did graduate work at USC, and has received honorary doctorate degrees from the College of Charleston, Converse College, Coker College, Presbyterian College, Winthrop University, and Wofford College.

**FRIENDS BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED**

Officers and Board Members will be elected at the meeting on October 2. Ms. Janet Gray, professor of theatre, and Dr. Kelly Costner, associate professor and coordinator of middle level education, have agreed to stand again for Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for 2018.

The new Board Members standing for election will be: Fred Faircloth, Rotarian and president of Rock Hill’s Coca Cola Bottling Co.; Paul Nigro, former pastor/businessman and currently a teacher at Northwestern High School; and Lindsay Walker, retired financial advisor and past-president of the Rotary Club of Rock Hill.

Many thanks to the retiring Board Members: Michelle C. Chase, Terry L. Norton, and Spiro Shetuni.

**RUDY MANCKE AT WINTHROP ON APRIL 14, 2015**

In This Issue:

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IS FAKE NEWS FAKING YOU OUT?...Dean Herring

If you haven’t heard the term fake news, then you’re probably a victim of it, suffering from delusions of grandeur, fully paranoid, or in complete denial. Fake news makes life for all of us more difficult, even those of us in the academy. Fake news is the new buzz-phrase these days and, unfortunately, everyone is into the act: CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, MSNBC, CNN, the New York Times, and on and on. So, what’s a reader to do?

Into the morass that is fake news have stepped librarians, and that’s good news and bad: good, because we haven’t yet been all outsourced to some website. Bad, because we’re no less biased than the person sitting next to you.

We do know some tricks of the trade, however, that I can share with you. So, herewith some things you can do to avoid fake, ormolu news.

Don’t Get Your News from Social Media—if you’re over 40, I’m preaching to the choir. If you’re under 40, you’re probably saying, “Say what?!” Social media isn’t the devil, but it does have an unbroken, never-down-line to her. (You might want to try reading Social Media and the Good Life: Do They Connect? if your Ambien isn’t working.)

Watch out for Clickbait—Clickbait is just what it sounds like: it’s trying to get you to click. If some headline seems too outrageous, or too good, or too crazy to believe, it likely is. Everybody does this because clicking is money. “Dog bites man” will get yawns; “Dog become man” will get a few million hits. But remember: what isn’t said it often more important than what is.

Don’t One-Source Your News—Even if your reading fare is the New York Times, you need some thing else to read. The NYT may have been impeachable for your grandfather; it isn’t any more. Furthermore, Vary Your Sources—If you lean left, read National Review or watch Fox News. If you lean right, read The New York Times or switch to NBC from time to time. By doing so, you’re bound to hit upon the truth eventually.

Who Wrote the Piece? -- What do you know about your author and why is he or she a so-called expert (a good book in this regard is David Freedman’s Wrong: Why the Experts Keep Failing Us.)? Can you find a good reason to trust your “expert” other than he or she is your expert?

How Old Is the Piece? -- Is it current, is it a week old or more, and does it address the subject or some other unrelated story?

Watch Out for Hoaxes: The Onion is a great site to get a good laugh but it isn’t a news source. Get corroboration for stories that sound outlandish and hard to believe.

Check Your Own Biases -- Remember earlier when I said we all have an axe to grind? Well, we do. Our biases force us to gravitate to those like us, and this fact alone is the hardest point about fake news to surmount.

If All Else Fails, Ask a Librarian: If you’re still unsure about what you’re reading, give us or someone else in the information business a call. While we cannot promise we’ll steer you to the truth, we can promise we’ll get you in the right neighborhood!
This is the last Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter that will be edited by me, though I will remain as a member of this esteemed and bookish organization until the day I die.

I have been a librarian for 38 years. When I graduated from the University of North Carolina Library School way back in 1978 online cataloging was a relatively new phenomenon. I recall that the professor who taught cataloging still did it the old fashioned way and I was in the last class that was taught traditional card cataloging.

In those days, if someone had told me that the time would come when I would use a computer every day of my work life, I would have laughed in his face and said, “You’re crazy!”

Sometime in the early 90s I was asked by a person if electronic-books would ever replace the printed book. I replied, “That will happen when one can turn the pages!”

A few years later, an e-book was developed that simulated the turning of pages. My reaction, “Oh No!”

You see, I was afraid that was the death knell for the printed book. Fortunately, those papery objects are not done for yet. As for me, I still love to quote Isaac Asimov’s observation on the book: “It will never be surpassed because it represents the minimum technology with the maximum interaction you can have.”

While I, like many in this modern age, have utilized many electronic resources in research and writing, there remains something special about the tactile sensation of touching paper. This is especially true when you hold a letter or book that was held by some famous figure—a Jefferson, a Washington, or a Lee.

When your flesh is in contact with something held by such men, you are transported to another world—a place and time where those gentlemen still walk the earth. If you have never experienced that feeling, then words are totally inadequate to explain it!

I hope that I may from time to time be able to return to Rock Hill over the years despite the fact that a 3.5 hour drive is a lot longer trek than it used to be (a one mile walk is longer also).

My dear mother died a year ago. In her last few years she moved very slowly and I would sometimes quip, “Mama, if you were any slower you’d be standing still.”

She’d say, “You’d be slow too if you were my age.”

I should be so lucky! I trust, the good Lord willing, that I will still be able to travel through the intervention of the written word, even if the day comes when I can’t muster the energy to cross the street.

—Ronnie W. Faulkner
CURRENT ACTIVE/LIFE MEMBERSHIP LIST OF FRIENDS OF DACUS LIBRARY THRU THE YEAR 2017

Please check to see if your name is on this list to assure that your dues are paid up for the year 2017. For practical reasons spouses are treated as members if either join. If you feel that the omission of your name is an error, then notify Dr. Mark Herring who is Acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends, at herringm@winthrop.edu or call him at 803-323-2232.

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Amount of Gift: ____________  If you would like your gift to go to the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund (Check): ___

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