



Fall 2018

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Friends of Dacus Library

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FRIENDS OF DACUS LIBRARY

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

FALL 2018

ALEXIS ABRAMSON, FALL DINNER SPEAKER

Over the years, the Friends of Dacus has brought to the campus a veritable showcase of top-notch speakers. From the well-known naturalist Rudy Mancke, to South Carolina historian extraordinaire Walter Edgar, to children’s writer Caroline Cooney, the Friends of Dacus has never disappointed.

Frankly, this year, even we think we’ve outdone ourselves. Internationally known gerontologist and Baby Boomer expert Alexis Abramson, Ph.D., will speak to the Friends on Nov. 1, 2018, at 6 p.m. in the Richardson Ballroom. Her talk is tentatively titled, “Four Keys to Longevity.”

Abramson will be familiar to many. She is the resident expert on the 50+ consumerism for NBC’s “The Today Show.” The Emmy and Gracie award-winning journalist has also appeared on CBS, CNN, MSNBC, as well as many other channels. Her books are highly acclaimed: “The Caregivers Survival Handbook,” “The 55+ Fact Book,” “The Medicare Resource Guide” and “Home Safety for Seniors” all speak to this very vital and growing niche population that many in the over 50 crowd are now discovering. We hear a lot about Millennials and Gen X-ers and whatever else the under -20 are now called. But Abramson is bringing to the

fore what those of us over 50 are saying, and also what we need to hear!

Her articles have appeared in Forbes, Time, the Wall Street Journal and in many blogs and websites. If you have any interest in the future, your own longevity, or the care of aging parents, you’ll want to hear what Alexis Abramson has to say.

Ticket are \$50 each (\$25 each for Friends members) and sponsorships are available. If you want to sponsor tables and/or advertise your business call 803/323-2232. This is an event that you will not want to miss!



Alexis Abramson, Ph.D.
Fall Speaker, Nov. 1, 2018,
Richardson Ballroom

FRIENDS ENDOWMENT SURPASSES \$88,000!

In 2013, under the direction of then Friends liaison Ronnie Faulkner, the Friends of Dacus established its first endowment.

The board determined for itself a most ambitious goal: \$100,000. Moreover, the board also saw the need to

hold onto this fund until it reached its stated goal.

I am happy to report in this newsletter that we are almost there: only a little more than \$11,000, and our goal will be met.

Please consider a Friends gift today. You gift could

well be the one that helps not only meet this goal but surpass it.

You can make a gift today. Just surf over to <http://lib.guides.library.winthrop.edu/development> right now.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, KELLY COSTNER, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Kelly Costner, Ph.D.
Richard W. Riley
College of Education

With every August, life begins again at the university. And this year, the *Friends of Dacus* intends to bring new life to the organization through a slate of initiatives and programs that will go beyond recent traditions. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll read about internationally recognized gerontologist and baby-boomer expert Alexis Abramson who will join us for our annual dinner event in November. And we

will again host a spring event with a local/regional speaker. But we're most excited about several projects that will extend and expand our membership and support.

First, we'll begin a new tradition of honoring Winthrop faculty members upon receiving tenure. In recognition of this career milestone, each newly-tenured faculty member will have a title of his/her choice placed in the collection with a bookplate commemo-

rating the occasion of earning a (relatively) permanent place among the faculty. A reception honoring the group will include a display with the chosen titles, and a web presence will be developed to feature each year's honorees and their personalized additions to Dacus.

[Continued below]

FIRST, WE'LL BEGIN A NEW TRADITION OF HONORING WINTHROP FACULTY MEMBERS UPON RECEIVING TENURE. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS CAREER MILESTONE, EACH NEWLY-TENURED FACULTY MEMBER WILL HAVE A TITLE OF HIS/HER CHOICE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, CONTINUED

Second, we're going to work to expand our membership. A recent review of our roster revealed that we need to increase faculty involvement, and the celebration of tenure is our first step in that direction. Additional faculty outreach projects are in the works. But we also need to get young alumni engaged with our group. Dacus is a popular place with today's

Eagles, and we need to keep that interest going in order to keep the library growing. Be on the lookout for Friends events that will appeal to those who may not remember Peabody Gymnasium!

Finally, we want to make this the year that we turn the final page in the story of our first endowment. The Friends established a fund in 2013

with the sole intent of purchasing books for our collection, but vowed not to spend any dollars until it reached \$100,000. We're in the final chapter, with only about \$11,000 to our goal. Fully funding the endowment within five years of its establishment will be a happy ending, indeed.

Then, we'll start the sequel...

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FRIENDS DINNER

If you or your company would like to sponsor a table for the upcoming and exciting Friends Fall Dinner Fundraiser, we have them just waiting for you.

Tables seat eight (8) and can be purchased for \$350. In addition, your company and/or sentiment will appear on the program for all in attend-

ance to see. Or perhaps you want to sponsor a table for students. Whatever it is you want to do, we can help you make it happen.

Not only are you helping the Friends of Dacus make the Ida Jane Dacus Library the best it can be, you'll also be helping out your own organization of commemoration.

Don't wait. Act now. If you or your company or club wants to reserve one of these tables, please call 803-323/2231 and speak with the Dacus liaison Mark Herring. You'll hear a great speaker, enjoy a most pleasant dinner, and aid, as Chesterton once said, "[T]he divine gift of language and letters to outlive us all!"



ROCK HILL SYMPHONY STRIKES ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

One of the best kept secrets in the Tri-County area is about to be unveiled – the newly formed **Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra!**

It is an orchestra made up of the finest players in the region. Established in 2017 by a group of musicians and supporters, the orchestra has set forth a bold and challenging mission to inspire, engage, and enrich the lives of community members with the transformative power of symphonic music through

excellence in live performances, educational programs and community activities.

In early 2018, the Symphony Board of Directors appointed David Rudge as Music Director and Conductor.

The Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra is committed to developing and nurturing partnerships in communities throughout the surrounding region. A key component of the orchestra's mission is edu-

cational outreach! The Maestro and musicians from the orchestra will visit local schools to speak with and perform for the students.

The Opening Fireworks Inaugural Concert will be held on **Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.** in the auditorium at Rawlinson Road Middle School. For tickets and more information please visit www.rhsymphony.org or contact Erin McManus at 803/517-5243.



Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra
www.rhsymphony.org

DUNGEONS, DRAGONS, MONSTERS, OH MY!

The spring production of “She Kills Monsters,” performed by the Department of Theatre and Dance, inspired a week-long themed event at Dacus. Professors from the Departments of English and History gave presentations connecting literature and history to fantasy literature, the history of the tabletop role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons, and pop-

ular films such as “Lord of the Rings.”

Students enjoyed these interesting discussions and the delicious pizza lunch. The library also hosted a scavenger hunt, with themed bookmarks and miniature treasure chests filled with prizes hidden throughout the library's stacks. The week ended with a raffle.

More than 75 students who participated in the week's events each received a ticket for theme-related prizes, such as a dragon figurine, tabletop gaming accessories, and books. Regarding the event, Trey Woodring, the library's circulation assistant, said, “From Dungeons & Dragons to Harry Potter, most modern fantasy was inspired by books that you can find here at the library.”

MORE THAN 75 STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WEEK'S EVENTS EACH RECEIVED A TICKET FOR THEME-RELATED PRIZES.

MEET DIANN SMOTHERS, HEAD OF CONTENT SERVICES

Diann Smothers joined the Dacus Library in May 2018 as the new Head of Content Services. Smothers, a South Carolina native, returned to the state after having previously served as the social sciences data librarian for the MIT Libraries, and more recently as the business librarian for Northeastern University

in Boston, Massachusetts.

Diann enjoys listening to audiobooks, playing the ukulele, and exploring the Rock Hill area. Having come on board only four months ago, Diann is still settling in. And so far, we haven't scared her away as her 'baptism' by fire is only just beginning!

She is acclimating nicely, however, and looks forward to many more years in the area. The Friends executive board met with her in July as we planned the upcoming year's events.

Look for Diann to take increasingly active roles with this group. Meanwhile, help us welcome her to Rock Hill.



Diann Smothers, Head of Content Services



SUPPORTING WINTHROP'S
SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1996!

Join the Friends of Dacus

The purpose of the Friends of Dacus Library is to encourage gifts, endowments, memorials, and funds for financial support of the library beyond the traditional budget. It seeks to attain this worthwhile goal via the contributions of members to the organization for either general or designated purposes. The current membership categories for those wishing to join the Friends group are:

Life (Individuals Only) \$1,000 given in a calendar year

Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only) \$500.00- \$999.99*

Patron \$200.00-\$499.99

Sustaining Member \$100.00-\$199.99

Member \$50.00-\$99.99

Winthrop Student \$10.00-\$49.99

*An individual who gives annually in this range is still classed as Patron.

Membership form here: <https://bit.ly/2wSsleC>

Give online here: www.winthrop.edu/give

DIGITAL COMMONS SURPASSES 100,000 DOWNLOADS

When we launched our Digital Commons in 2014, we did so with some fear and trepidation. Would we be successful? Would faculty support us? Would readers find us?

It's safe to say that the answer to all three questions is a resounding yes, especially when it comes to our readers.

In early June this year, our readership surpassed 100,000 downloads. Researchers and readers from all over the world—literally—have sought after and found our repository, our digital intellectual footprint, and we could not be

more proud.

Our Digital Commons has more than 450 disciplines and more than 8400 papers. And we are growing every day. In any given week, hundreds of downloads from China, Brazil, Japan, the UK France and many more appear on our activity map.

Not only are we showcasing faculty work, but we are also showcasing the work of our students. From our top ten most often downloaded papers, nine are from student work. We are showcasing students' work from our McNair program, our Honors program, graduate the-

ses, and other student contributions.

More importantly, by sharing our faculty work with those researchers on the Internet, we are saving the exorbitant cost of scholarly communication. With each faculty contribution, we take a stand for open access to research worldwide.

If you haven't done so lately, or if you haven't been by at all, surf over to <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/> and take a look at all the great work of this academic community. It's easy, it's enlightening, and it's free!



Our scholars are known worldwide! Map shows country location downloads.