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Dacus Library

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**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **News About Changes in the Dacus Library and Archives**
- **Highlight on Rare Cuneiform Tablets, 2300 B.C. to 547 B.C.**

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Changing Times...

Changing times call for, well, change. We live in times that futurologist David Houle calls “the Shift Age.” In a nutshell, Houle argues that the current age is seeing rapid transformation at speeds unprecedented in history.

Nowhere is that change more apparent than in libraries. When Dacus was built in 1968, businesses were spending \$0 dollars on technology. By 1995, that figured had swelled to *one billion* annually. In 1968, libraries with only one computer connection were considered state-of-

the-art. Today, 100 *public* computers may be too few.

“Our times,” as Bob Dylan once famously remarked, “they are a-changin’.” While we at Dacus await a new multipurpose library, we realize that we must do something to update this 42-year old building ... now! To that end over the next twelve months, we will be adding 24-hour access, group and individualized study areas, updated technology and more. Changes are already underway in the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections, soon to be relocated to

the corner of Charlotte Avenue and Cherry Road. This newer, larger facility will allow for more research, town-and-gown collaborations and more frequent displays of this six *million* item collection.

Change is not always welcomed, but it is always inevitable. We hope that you’ll join us and “**Dacus Developments**” as we transform Winthrop’s formidable library services into something even better.

Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections Banners Add Pizzaz!

The former Bookworm building on Cherry Road will soon house the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. The opening will be late this fall. A notable aspect of the facility will be the attractive banners that have been created to promote the holdings of the Archives.

One of the most interesting of the banners is the one promoting the Cuneiform Tablet Collection. Yes, Winthrop owns six cuneiform tablets dating from 2300 to 547 B.C! Cuneiform is

the oldest known form of writing and was commonly used in the Middle East between 3200 B.C. and 200 A.D. It was created by pressing a wedge-shaped instrument, usually a cut reed, into moist clay.

Other banners will promote such things as a George Washington letter, artifacts of Winthrop’s founder David Bancroft Johnson, rare books, personal diaries, coinage and 19th century photographs.



Above is just one of the new banners that will be hanging in the Archives at Winthrop.

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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.



Dacus Library and Archives Development

This new e-newsletter entitled "**Dacus Developments**" is being launched to promote the development needs of the Ida Jane Dacus Library and the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. In addition, it will report on the ongoing progress of these two interrelated operations at Winthrop University.

A part of the university "*2011-12 Vision of Distinction*" is to: "Begin phased updates to Dacus Library to expand group study, collaboration, and research spaces and increase hours of access to key areas."

At the present time, finishing touches are being made to the facility on Cherry Road which will be the new home of the Pettus Archives and Special Collections. Once the Archives are relocated, major renovations of the Dacus Library will be undertaken, starting in 2012.

Big capital projects of this nature re-

quire a considerable financial commitment. Most people do not realize that in the 2011-12 budget year only 9.6 percent of the Winthrop budget comes through direct state appropriation. This compares with the 40 percent that the institution received from the state in 1990-91. Understandably, in this time of new fiscal realities the continued support of friends and benefactors will be vital to the future improvement of the learning environment at Winthrop.

This newsletter will keep you informed of the important changes taking place in library-related services and facilities. It will also, from time to time, indicate some identified areas of specific need. Finally, it will periodically highlight persons and organizations that have been especially notable in terms of their contributions to Dacus Library and Archives development.

We anticipate that this e-newsletter will be published quarterly. It is our hope that you find it informative and useful.



Carnegie Library 1905 (Rutledge Hall)

**"Libraries are places where
the imagination begins."
Heather Barbieri,
Author of *The Lace
Makers of Glenmara* (2009)**