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Dacus Library

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SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- News About the Dacus Library and Archives
- Manuscripts Acquired by Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections

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Friends of Dacus Endowment Nears Goal...

Several months ago, Dr. Ronnie Faulkner and the Friends of Dacus, led by the group's Chairman Jack W. Weaver, Emeritus Professor of English, set a most ambitious goal: to begin an endowment fund in the name of the Friends. The reasons for doing so were imminently reasonable: Dacus needed the funds, an endowment fund was a gift that would keep giving, and the planned open-endedness of the fund would make it possible to cover many needs. But the task was not for the faint-hearted: The *minimum* endowment is firm at \$25,000.

Work began and little by little, we are closing in on that ambitious goal but only because of friends like you. We are at \$24,000 and change. We are going to try to get to about \$27,000 to cover other Friends expenses so we'll have the exact amount when we open the fund. We will not spend the principal, of course, but will use the interest generated from the fund annually after it reaches maturity.

There are many reasons to give to this fund. First, all gifts given now will count toward the University's overall goal of \$50 million in the Distinction: the Campaign for Winthrop. Secondly, we are so close that we can almost hear the laudatory bells ringing our success. But probably the best one—at least for me—is that when you give to the library, **you're not giving to**



Early Reader and Future Beneficiary of the Friends of Dacus Library Endowment Fund

one student or one discipline, but to every student, and to all disciplines. To me, this is what makes library giving among the best of any. Scholarship creations are wonderful and program building is terrific. In the end, however, you are carving out a niche for some students, or for a discipline or two. Obviously, not a bad thing but could you do something that would help everyone? Indeed, you can. Library giving allows you to impact every discipline supported by the library and that means all of knowledge. That also means that regardless of what a given student is studying, he or she will be aided in that endeavor. In short, library giving means each student and every discipline win.

But don't get the idea that this is one and done. Getting to the minimum is our immediate goal. Without the minimum, we cannot establish the fund. But once we're 'there' so to speak, let's be sure and not stop. The larger we make this fund, the more it will improve Dacus and all her programs. Let's shoot for the

moon, or at least \$100,000! Why not make it an every year or every quarter or—best of all—every month activity? Send something—\$5, \$20, \$50, \$1,000—every month, or as you can. Annual earning on \$25,000 will be an excellent beginning. But annual earnings on \$100,000 will be four times better! I hope and trust that I am making myself clear. Giving to an endowment means that one's contributions can keep giving toward the education of new generations long after one has "shuffle[d] off this mortal coil."

And what better time to be doing this giving than now? With Christmas coming, why not honor someone with a gift to this fund? Or, establish one in another's memory. We all know that Christmas is too commercial but this sort of giving—the kind that aids the divine gift of language and letters to outlive us all—is a way to quash commercialism, give an outstanding gift, and really celebrate what Christmas is all about.

— Mark Y. Herring

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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.



Medieval Manuscripts Acquired; Carlises Recognized as Life Friends

Dacus Library recently purchased its first teaching manuscript collection to show Winthrop students what early writings, including Bibles from the 13th century, entailed.

Library Dean Mark Herring said he has wanted to purchase such a collection for several years but the library did not have the right storage environment until now. With the relocation of the Archives to its Cherry Road location and its museum-quality heating and air conditioning system, which is one of the best in a South Carolina library facility, the institution recently moved forward in ordering a collection.

The Archives' smart classroom will enable the teaching of faculty members about early scholarly communication. "Since many entering freshmen have never seen a full set of printed encyclopedias, imagine what some of these manuscripts can reveal to them," Herring said. "We hope to pass on to them the value of knowledge and the painstaking care these manuscripts have been passed on from one generation to the next."

He intends on buying such collections every other year, as funds allow. This first collection, which contains music, psalters, a codex and some science, cost \$5,850.

Jo Koster, professor of English and coordinator of the Medieval Studies Program, said the manuscript fragments give faculty members the opportunity to share with students not only artifacts from the past, but important stages of the dissemination of educational, legal, and religious information to an informed public.

"The wide range of materials, too, helps us teach students about the ways in which important texts were shared among cultures and across time, supporting Winthrop's commitment to global learning," she said. "And now that Winthrop's archives include materials from cuneiform tablets written two millennia before the time of Christ to medieval manuscripts and early printed books to the most modern electronic texts, we can help them make exciting connections across the history of communication and education."

On October 8, Rick and Kay Carlisle were recognized as **Life Members of the Friends of Dacus Library**. Both have been active on the Library Advisory Board and generous supporters of the Dacus Library. Rick, a retired computer scientist, has served on Westminster Catawba Christian School's board of trustees, two colleges' boards of visitors, and in leadership roles in his church. Kay has studied at Winthrop, worked in R & D and education, and volunteered for three area schools, including coaching soccer for Westminster Catawba Christian College. Rick and Kay love with equal vigor outdoor sports and the life of the mind.

Honorees Rick and Kay Carlisle with Dean Herring, October 8, 2012

