



Fall 2008

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Friends of Dacus Library

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## Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume III Issue 2 Fall 2008

### Friends of Dacus Library Present

### Friends' Fall Festival & Antique Book Road Show

Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
From 2 pm until 6 pm in McBryde Hall

Please join us for our annual membership meeting and fall program in McBryde Hall on Winthrop's campus.

Our Fall Festival will include several exciting venues:

- **Antique Road Show for Books, 4-6pm (Main Hall):** Jim Presgraves, antiquarian from Wytheville, VA, will appraise books brought by visitors to the event. If you have ever wondered how much your treasures are worth on the antique book market, this is your chance to find out! To ensure everyone has their turn to have their book(s) appraised, each appraisal will be for three book per person at each time. Tickets will be numbered, and the appraiser will call out the number. Seating will be provided while you wait. Tickets are \$10 for each three books. If you would like to sponsor the Road Show, sponsorship tickets are \$100.
  - To purchase tickets in advance, please make check payable to Friends of Dacus Library and send to Dr. Jim Johnston, 1946 Farrow Drive, Rock Hill SC 29732 by September 19, 2008. Additional walk-up tickets for the Antique Road Show for Books will be available for purchase at the door.

- **Silent Auction, 2-6pm (Tuttle Dining Room):** We will have original art, multi-course dinner prepared in your home, and more!
- **Winthrop Art Sale, 2-6pm (Main Hall):** Works by Winthrop students and faculty.
- **Book Sale, 2-6pm (Main Hall):** Stock up on reading and gifts at our tables.

Admission to the art and book sales and silent auction is free of charge.

Check and cash only.

**Parking** will be reserved at the McBryde's front entrance in the parking lot behind Java City. Additional visitors' spaces are nearby.

Special parking decals for the event will be available inside the entrance to McBryde.

### Which Reason, Reasons Not

The great philosopher, mathematician, and all-around polymath, Blasé Pascal, once wisely quipped that the "heart knows reason which reason reasons not." In a very unscientific manner, Pascal pointed out what every liberally educated individual knows: there are things which can be reasoned and things which cannot—which only the heart knows, as in, for example, love (and hence its oft-remarked blindness). But Pascal obviously had not many dealings with politicians or he would have added, some reason in a manner which reason reasons not. This is one such story.

PASCAL, Partnerships among South Carolina Academic Libraries, may well be a name you've heard of, but it's okay if you haven't. As a name, it's only been around for fewer than five years. But it represents something that has been two decades in the making. PASCAL is a statewide consortium that provides services (more about those in due course) for all 57 academic libraries in the Palmetto State—all public and private ones, all two-year and four-year institutions of higher

learning—and the state library of South Carolina. Academic librarians, some still working in the state, some retired, and some who have moved on to other libraries in other states, met for years trying to develop what other nearby states had already perfected.

For example, before PASCAL, Georgia had Galileo, Virginia had VIVA and North Carolina had NCLive. These states had already discovered what South Carolina academic librarians knew but could not quite get off the ground: that statewide consortia proved a most fiduciary way of spending state dollars on higher education. Virginia's VIVA program has won state awards for being one of the best and most responsible ways of spending state funding. Statewide consortia encourage collaborative work, make possible academic resource sharing, and in the end, save taxpayers money. Here's why.

Resources that graduates, undergraduates and faculty who teach them *must* have at their disposal for research are very expensive. In the last decade and half, library resources have sky-rocketed in cost, going up at a faster rate than healthcare, and, believe it or not, even more than oil! Of course not everyone uses such resources and so many are unaware of these dramatic increases. But for an academic institution, the databases, books and periodicals—both print and electronic—that every student (and every faculty member) uses for research are quite exorbitant. At Winthrop, for example, before the establishment of PASCAL, we often weighed the advantages of databases that cost \$30,000 *apiece*. This meant, of course, that we had to be very selective, and had to choose very general ones that meant we could not provide others in certain discipline-specific areas. Before PASCAL, we provided our students access to 7,000 electronic journals. After PASCAL, we provided them with more than 25,000, and at a fraction of the cost had we tried to do it without PASCAL.

Dacus librarians, along with all the other academic librarians in the state, knew that if we could get PASCAL started and funded, we would enjoy the same advantages being enjoyed by students in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and many other states.

Imagine our delight when our forward-thinking state legislators decided in 2004 to provide \$2 million to get PASCAL up and running!

While the funding mechanism—lottery funds—weren't the most stable way to do this (recurring funding would have been ideal), we were ecstatic over the decision and set out to prove PASCAL worthy of the faith those legislators had placed in this fledgling enterprise. Did it work?

You bet it did! Last year for example, Dacus paid, based on our student enrollment, \$6,000 to be a member. On behalf of Dacus, PASCAL spent about \$60,000 and returned to us—to our students, faculty and staff—\$400,000 in resources and services. We had access to numerous databases, electronic journals and more. PASCAL made available to us a mechanism whereby we could borrow for our students, faculty and staff, any of the 10 million books held in academic libraries across the state in as little as 72-hours, a far cry better than the ten working days it took before PASCAL existed.

But it wasn't only Dacus that enjoyed these benefits but also every academic library in the state, as well as the more than 300,000 students who attended college in them. PASCAL meant that very small academic libraries would enjoy similar kinds of resources at a fraction of the cost. In the end, statewide, for every dollar PASCAL spent, participating academic libraries got back an average of \$7 dollars in access, services and resources. It was, in short, a win-win proposition for both the haves and the have-nots. Students going to college in rural areas had access to services that the "big boys" had and the playing field had been leveled for all intents and purposes. The decision by those legislators in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 proved a wise and economically trustworthy way of spending precious state dollars. So what happened?

By 2008, the state had changed its funding from property tax (those were dramatically reduced) and relied on sales tax. In a perfect world, such a change might have gone unnoticed, but the economy, as we all know, took a very bad turn for the worse. Inflation crept up, oil went through the roof, and the state faced a \$100 million deficit. PASCAL was not alone, of course, in feeling the pinch

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## Founding Member - Feature

**Louise Pettus**, professor emerita and Winthrop alumna, Class of 1946, is a charter member of the Friends of Dacus Library. In 2006 she gave the Archives a kind and generous gift of \$400,000 along with the donation of her papers consisting of a wealth of historical information accumulated through a lifetime of meticulous research. Winthrop honored her by naming the Archives for her. The Archives staff was pleased and greatly honored with the announcement of the gift and the new name. Louise Pettus is one of the Archives' and Dacus Library's favorite and most respected researchers as well as a knowledgeable and excellent resource for historical information concerning the Catawba Region and South Carolina. Her support of the Winthrop Archives and Special Collections' mission, Dacus Library and the Friends of Dacus Library is greatly appreciated.

From 1967 to 1985, Pettus taught secondary social studies and teacher training in the School of Education. From 1985 until she retired in 1989, she taught in Winthrop's History Department. Pettus received the university's Alumni Professional Achievement Award in the spring of 2006. A recognized scholar of South Carolina history and recipient of a number of historical awards, Pettus wrote historical columns for the York section of the Charlotte Observer for 21 years. In 2007 she retired from editing the York County Genealogical and Historical Society Quarterly after 16 years of service. She has written eight books, the most recent one titled *Leases*. She is currently writing articles for Carolina Gateway, a newspaper in Indian Land in her native Lancaster County where she lives at Sun City.

(Contributed by Gina White, Director of the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections)



Shown here are Louise Pettus with President DiGiorgio and the plaque that hangs at the entrance to the newly named Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections



The plaque, Louise, and Dean Mark Herring

## Library Board Meeting

August 13, 2008

Discussed at the above meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Archer at 12:15.

The meeting minutes from the May meeting were read and approved.

Gloria Kelley reported for Treasurer Jim Johnston that our balance in the bank is \$6,721.

Jenny Sparacin reported on the membership. We have 83 members who gave a total of \$6,465 this year.

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and this year, PASCAL funding plummeted from \$2 million to \$200,000, a 90% reduction. Many state programs have been cut this year, and some have already been cut out altogether, so getting something, even a 90% reduction, is nothing to sneeze at. It did however mean a significant change.

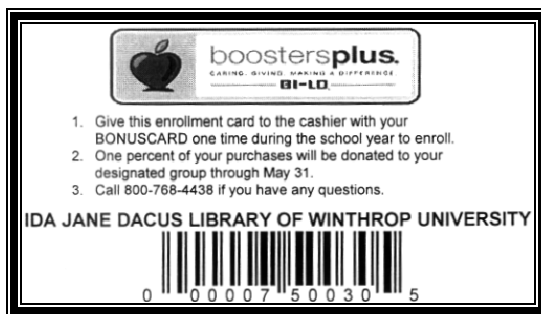
The fallout from this reduction has been dramatic, indeed. Dacus will now pay about \$30,000 to be a member in PASCAL, paying both dues and fees, as well as picking up some databases that PASCAL had to cut in July. More are scheduled to fall in December and January of this year. *In other words, this year we are paying much more and getting back much less.* That great above-mentioned mechanism for resource sharing that delivered books to students and faculty across the state dropped from 5-days a week delivery to only 3. If funding is not restored, PASCAL will either cease to exist in July 2009, or exist as only a shadow of what it once was, and at much higher price tag than ever before.

Some believe that if this great program is really so great, the academic institutions should pick it up and pay for it. But that really means that tuition will go up ... again. It also means that the smaller institutions will likely drop out as the cost of participation will prove too expensive, and

they will return to the “have-not” status. If they do indeed drop out, those that remain will pay even more, and so on. Even if Dacus were to release its *entire* funding line for books, it could not pay to replace all the services PASCAL provides. This is a very sad turn of events for a state program that did everything our governor said a state program should do: spend state dollars wisely, encourage resource sharing, and make possible statewide collaboration.

What can be done? Those who think PASCAL is a good program are going to [www.pascalsc.org](http://www.pascalsc.org) and telling PASCAL just how helpful it has been. It's important for those who have used PASCAL's services to let PASCAL know just how helpful it is. Anyone who has used them at any of the 57 institutions in the state can go to that website and look for the “testimonials” link. Those who have used the services know that without PASCAL, the brain-drain from our state may increase, and dramatically so, as students may choose to attend academic institutions where resources for research and study are readily available.

Dacus librarians are hopeful that, even in terrible economic times, PASCAL funding can be restored. Without it, with all its positive benefits, its failure will be one of those ends which “reason reasons not.” (Contributed by Dean Herring)



We are participating in Bi-Lo's boosterplus fund-raising program this year. We can earn money for Dacus Library of Winthrop

University by simply shopping at any Bi-Lo with our bonus card. Just cut out the above enrollment card and give it to the cashier along with your bonus card to be scanned with your grocery order. This one-time scan will enroll you for the Ida Jane Dacus Library until May 31 and we will receive one percent of your purchases. You can make a copy of this coupon to give to your friends and family to help us raise money as well. If you participated in this program in years past you will need to have this coupon scanned again. Thanks for the help!



(Continued from Page 3)

Renewal letters will go out in late November/early December. There was a discussion about formally inviting students and faculty to become members. A question was brought up about what do students get out of joining. Gloria Kelley will work on this with Dean Herring. It was suggested that new faculty be contacted to join. All this correspondence can be done via email.

Dean Herring discussed the PASCAL situation. The state has invested \$6 million since 2004 for PASCAL and PASCAL has delivered \$50 million in access and services to the state's 57 academic libraries. The legislature in Columbia reduced state support from \$2 million to \$200,000 for this year, a 90% reduction. In the past Dacus Library spent \$6,000 and received over \$400,000 in resources and services. This year Dacus will spend \$30,000 and will receive much less than that: in other words: we are spending more and getting less. We have to realize that PASCAL is not just benefitting Winthrop University but every public, private, two-year and four-year university and college in the state. If any of our members are interested in helping rectify this situation, Dean Herring will be happy to provide more information.

The fall program will be a combination of activities in McBryde Hall including an Antique Book Road Show, a silent auction, and a book sale. President DiGiorgio has already donated one of his art pieces for the silent auction. Several other donations have been made also. The date of the fall program is October 1. We are hoping that we can make appropriate arrangements for this Friends' Event parking.

The newsletter will go out in the beginning of September and will include articles on PASCAL, the new library roof, the changes to the Friends web page, a feature on one of the original board members and possibly a discussion of one of the Friends' new books. Also included in the newsletter will be a coupon from Bi-Lo's to link with a Bi-Lo card which donates money to the library.

The spring program will be a literary luncheon on April 23, 2009 during the annual Come-See-Me festival. Location and other details will be announced.

The charge for Friends' memberships was discussed. It was thought that perhaps we could charge \$50 for one book purchase level. If the individual wanted library access we would charge an

additional \$10 - \$15. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.  
Respectfully submitted by Jenny Sparacin,  
Corresponding Secretary  
(in the absence of Mary Jean Martin, Recording Secretary)

### **Dacus Library gets a new roof**

After another recent bout of our roof leaking, it was decided that we needed to call someone in to see what could be done. The decision was made to install a new roof as soon as possible. The powers that be were hoping that a few repairs might hold us over until the new library building was built but over the past several years there was just too much rain damage to put it off any longer. The roof is expected to be completed before the semester begins.

### **Slate of Officers for 2009-2010**

Antje Mays, Chair  
Gay Randolph, Vice Chair  
Mary Jean Martin, Recording Secretary  
Paul Sandefer, Treasurer  
Jenny Sparacin, Corresponding Secretary/  
Newsletter Editor  
Sally Archer, Past Chair

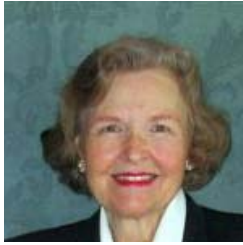
### **Advisory Board & Executive Committee Representatives**

Judith Aplin (08-08)  
Joye Berman (08-09)  
Carolyn Carpenter (08-09)  
Nancy Davidson (08-09)  
Jean Plowden (08-09)  
Mickey Taylor (08-09)  
Dot Medlin (09-10)  
Bill Daniel (09-10)  
Sandra White (09-10)  
David Lyon (09-10)  
Marla Black (09-10)  
Betty Lou Land (09-10)  
Genie Poag (09-10)  
Betty Robinson (09-10)



<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/about/friendspage.htm>

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## A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,  
The turnout for our August meeting was most pleasing. The business session was very productive and constructive. It was also supplemented by a very informal and pleasant lunch at the White Horse Restaurant in the upstairs conference room.

Still in the forefront of the Friends organization is the membership goal. Jenny Sparacin reported on the current membership which is now at 83 strong. Those members have contributed a total of \$6,465.00 for this year. Our goal remains to be 100 members by the end of the year. Renewal letters will go out in late November or early December. The inviting of students and faculty to become members was discussed. Gloria Kelly, Winthrop Library, will discuss this issue with Dean Mark Herring.

Dean Herring attended the meeting and discussed the PASCAL situation and its benefits to Winthrop. (See article in this newsletter).

The Fall Program for the Friends will be a combination of activities in McBryde Hall including an Antique Book Road Show, a silent auction and a book sale. This is going to be an exciting event so mark your calendar for October 1 and bring a friend with you.

In the spring, we will have a literary luncheon during the annual Come-See-Me festival. The date for the luncheon is April 23, 2009. The location and details will be provided in upcoming Newsletters.

Should you have ideas for programs that would be of interest to the university and the community, please share them with us.

Best regards,

Sally Archer

**Friends of Dacus Library  
Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, SC 29733**



We can never have too many Friends!