Spring 2012

Friends of Dacus Library

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Caroline grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, but recently moved to York County to be near her daughter and her family that live in Fort Mill. She has written over 75 suspense, mystery, and romance novels for teenagers which have sold over 15,000,000 copies and are published in several languages. Her newest books are The Lost Songs and The Vampire’s Promise (published 2011).

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Volume 6, Issue 3 Spring 2012
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On February 20, 2012, Jackie McFadden, associate professor and reference librarian at Dacus, traveled to the Lowcountry to teach a class on the History and Heritage of the Marsh Tacky Horse in South Carolina as a guest lecturer for USC Beaufort’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). OLLI offers an extensive curriculum of classes, events, and special programs for adult learners in the Beaufort/Hilton Head area. Over 50 students attended the class. As an added surprise, Jackie had two Marsh Tackies on the grounds for attendees to meet after class. The lecture was well received and everyone was excited to see the horses.

The Marsh Tacky is a unique strain of Colonial Spanish Horse found only in South Carolina. Today, there are less than 300 Marsh Tackies left. In 2007, the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association was formed to preserve the breed and share its history. In 2010, Jackie, with the help of SC Rep. Gary Simrill, and SC Sen. Wes Hayes, effectively led the effort to designate the Marsh Tacky as the SC State Heritage Horse. Jackie was awarded the Order of the Silver Crescent, the state’s highest honor for volunteer and community service, for her work with SC Libraries, Winthrop University, and the Marsh Tacky.

For information on OLLI, go to http://www.uscb.edu/community-outreach/olli/index.php. For more on Marsh Tackies go to http://www.marshtacky.org.
Library Boards to Merge ... Dean Herring

Since 2000, Dacus has had two library boards. The esteemed and long-serving Friends of Dacus, and the more recent Library Advisory Board (LAB). Both have functioned as public relations and fundraising outreaches for Dacus. The Friends of Dacus, begun in the nineties, focused most of its attention on books. Over the years, the group has purchased literally thousands of them. Titles have ranged over every discipline taught at Winthrop. Each book bears a book plate testifying to its provenance as a Friends of Dacus purchase. Clearly, the Friends group has been instrumental in building the library’s excellent book collection, adding about 200 titles annually. Often, the books purchased by the Friends were titles Dacus could not have obtained otherwise.

Additionally, the Friends of Dacus has sponsored events each year. These events also shared in the variety and liveliness that has always earmarked this energetic group. Author talks, readings, plays, auctions and more high-lighted the Friends-sponsored events for both the membership and the larger academic community. These, events, too, helped raised funds for Dacus.

In 2000, the Library Advisory Board of Dacus was formed in response to much needed funds for non-book areas. This group, too, while younger and smaller than the larger and longer-serving Friends board, has brought in ample funds since its inception. The Library Advisory Board has purchased online resources, digitization equipment, web interfaces, Encore (the library’s 21st Century web presence for its catalog) and much, much more. The LAB meets annually, usually at a dinner in which the dean relates the many activities of the library while showcasing coming needs.

With the advent of changes in Dacus and its desperately needed facelift, the move of the Pettus Archives to its new and gloriously beautiful location, and changes in librarianship itself, 2012 will mark the merging of the two boards into one. First, the Dacus upfit will require us to press harder for dollars for all kinds of library-related acquisitions, and we need all hands on deck, so to say, for that task. The estimated cost is $900,000, but that covers only the main floor. The other two floors are in equal need of an upgrade. The Pettus Archives is beautiful, but it too will need to continue to find support. Furthermore, with the changes in library services requiring ever more ebooks, web-enabled devices, and additional electronic databases, it only makes sense to increase and strengthen electronic delivery and access as we build on our traditional forms of information delivery.

You’ll be hearing more about the merger, but I wanted you know about the immediate coming changes. We have learned in recent years that libraries are at the forefront of change. While it isn’t always the type of change we want or even, in some cases, that we like, we know it meets students, and for that reason we eagerly move in that direction.

Do all the changes in Pettus and Dacus mean we are no longer pursuing a new library? Indeed, they do not. But Dacus at 44 years old cannot afford to wait another ten years for a new building without some immediate renovation. Our sources indicate that a new building is at least

Continued on p. 4

“Online reading will never replace the physical and emotive delight of a lovely fat papery book.”
—“The Death of the Book, Again”
WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK
Continued from p. 3

a decade away and more likely a decade and a half away, if even then. When I came in 1999, a new building had been in the works for nearly ten years already. Unfortunately, we are no closer today than we were then. Given the present state of our economy, we are in some way farther away than ever. Meanwhile, Dacus has grown older and more dated. Obviously, we must update Ida Jane even though a new building is much preferred. While some of our changes will be specific to this building most will not, and will move with us to a new building, should that time come sooner rather than later.

Both boards want the same thing for Dacus and it only makes sense to merge them and have them work together to accomplish one overall and most worthy goal: a better, more vibrant Dacus for our hyper-connected, tech-savvy students.

Major Renovations of Dacus Library in 2012

There will be significant renovations of the Dacus Library between May 2, 2012, and the beginning of the Fall term. The main floor of the library will be completely revamped with additional study rooms, techno-booths, a central information commons, and an overall new and inviting look for patrons. The changes in the interior look of the Library main floor represent the first large-scale alteration in the building since its original construction in the 1960s.

During this summer time hours will be modified as follows: 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Friday. There will be no weekend hours.

The current main entrance will be closed and access will be through the front side entrance of the building, except for handicapped entrance, which will be via the back door of Dacus. The main floor will be closed to patron use due to construction. Reference Services and Circulation will be provided via desks on the second floor.

We recognize that this work may be a bit confusing to library users, but the hope is that it will all be completed within the next four months. In the meantime, progress reports related to construction will be posted on the Dacus Library website at http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/renovations.
A Note from the Chair

Dacus Library
824 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC  29733

Phone: 803/323-2131
Fax:     803/323-2215
www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends

In a season when civility seems to have been sacrificed to sound and fury, we may need to remind ourselves that assertion does not constitute proof and that, for most subjects, we must recognize “truths,” not find one and assume the search has ended. So much for politics!

Books can help, even those less profound than the writings of the Buddha or Shakespeare. J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series tackles the issue of good versus evil and appeals to the adolescent within all of us, combining entertainment value with the desire to be a hero. If we wish to read all kinds of books, reviews in the New York Times and elsewhere can help us set priorities. Criteria for judgment may also be time-saving. Still useful is the thinking of Matthew Arnold (seek “the best that has been thought and said”) and Joseph Campbell (search out the myths in religion and other literary writing).

We may, of course, learn from many kinds of writing. Yeats liked detective stories, as well as Sophocles and Shakespeare. Depending upon our taste and mood, we can enjoy many kinds of reading. Accepting the existence of variety in writing, can we learn to do the same for life?

As a teacher for more than forty years, I was always concerned with the fact of tunnel vision (i.e., the assumption that there is only one truth or possible interpretation and that, since it is mine, it is the only possible one). Spring, as well as books, should teach us better. For doubting Thomases, may I recommend the poem of Wallace Stevens contained in my title? Surely Mr. Stevens must have become exasperated with readers who wanted a single (and simple) meaning for one of his complex poems and so he concocted a playful reminder that identification of “truth” depends upon the perspective of the searcher and that TRUTH should remind us to recognize truths in the thinking of others, as well as our own. Joyce’s Leopold Bloom would have agreed totally.

Best regards,

Jack W. Weaver
Chair of Friends of Dacus
Emeritus Professor of English

P.S. Elsewhere in this newsletter (p. 2) one will find a listing of current members of the Friends of Dacus Library. If your name is not on that list, then I encourage you to join or rejoin today. - JWW

“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.”

— Mark Twain
Membership Application: The Friends of Dacus Library  (Mail to address in box below)

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________
Home Phone No.: _______________________________________________________
Cell Phone No. (if different than home no.): _________________________________
Primary Email Address: _________________________________________________
Class Year (if applicable): _________ Relationship to Winthrop (check one):
   __ Alumni __ Faculty/Staff __ Friend __ Parent __ Student
Amount of Gift: _______________________________________________________

Levels:
   Life (Individuals Only) $1,000.00+
   Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only) $500.00-$999.99
   Patron $200.00-$499.99
   Sustaining Member $100.00-$199.00
   Member $50.00-$99.99
   Winthrop Student $10.00-$49.99

If you wish to make a gift ___ in honor of, or ___ in memory of someone, please indicate whom:

Name/address of person to be notified about honor/memorial in box below:

Make check out to:
Winthrop University Foundation
Sykes House
638 Oakland Ave.
Rock Hill, SC 29733

On “For” line write:
Friends of Dacus Library