Summer 2012

Friends of Dacus Library

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Cooney to Speak; Carlisle, Lee and Cornwell-Daves to Become Latest Friends’ Life Members

“Mark your calendars now,” says the Friends of Dacus Chairman Jack W. Weaver. “Bestselling young adult author Caroline B. Cooney will be with us at 6 p.m. on October 8.” Friends members are invited to the event at no charge, while non-members must pay $15.

The annual dinner meeting of the Friends group will take place at the Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall, on the campus of Winthrop University. Ms. Cooney’s topic will be: “Life with Harold: A Writer Looks Back on 91 Novels for Young Adults.”

Ms. Cooney’s best-known novel, The Face on the Milk Carton (1990), was described by Publisher’s Weekly as “absorbing and convincing. Strong characterizations and suspenseful, impeccably paced action add to this novel’s appeal.” Reviewing another novel, Both Sides of Time (1997), School Library Journal concluded: “Not only a love story and a time-travel fantasy, but also a provocative and powerful examination of women, marriage, and relationships in two centuries.”

Ms. Cooney has sold over 15,000,000 copies of her books. Her work has been recognized with the IRA–CBC Children’s Choice Award and as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults. Frequently called upon to address national library and literary gatherings, Winthrop University is fortunate to have an author of Cooney’s caliber address our Dacus Friends group. She currently resides in Fort Mill, SC.

In addition to the outstanding speaker scheduled for the annual meeting, Chairman Weaver indicated that there would be an induction of four new Life Members. The honorees are Rick and Kay Carlisle, Mrs. Kim Lee, and Mrs. Nancy Cornwell-Daves. Mr. Carlisle is best known as a businessman and director of the Wateree Dreams Foundation of Rock Hill. He is a former member of the Library Advisory Board of the Dacus Library and a contributor to library endeavors. Mrs. Lee, a Winthrop graduate and music educator in the Fort Mill Schools, is a current member of the Library Advisory Board.

The group will also have its election of officers. Be advised that Dr. Weaver and Dr. Jane White have agreed to continue as chair and vice-chair, respectively. In addition, Mrs. Joye Berman and Mrs. Doris Leitner have agreed to serve on the Friends of Dacus Board, replacing Ms. Janet Gray and Dr. Martha Bollinger, who are stepping down after two years.

The most important voting, however, will involve the vote on the revised bylaws necessitated by the planned merger of the Friends of Dacus and the Library Advisory Board (LAB). The changes are outlined on page 2 of this newsletter and will be followed by a mailing of the full revisions to the entire membership (emailed for those with email addresses on file).
Below are enumerated the significant changes to the Friends of Dacus Library Bylaws, excluding only cosmetic alterations and minor clarifications or additions to the existing document. The changes below are in an abbreviated form, but the full changes (highlighted in red) will be sent to the entire membership for review at least two weeks before the October 8 meeting. Please read and come to the meeting prepared to vote on the modifications, which are:

**Article IV: The Friends Board**
- Sec. 1. Expanded from 7 to 13 members.
- Sec. 3. Two of the four quarterly meetings shall be presided over by the Library Dean. Other meetings maybe called by the Chair or Secretary-Treasurer.
- Sec. 4. A quorum is 25%.

**Article V: Officers and Their Duties**
- Sec. 3. Board term changed from 2 to 3 years on rotating basis (3-3-4).

**Article VII. Library Advisory Board**
- Sec. 2. Library Advisory Board candidates are nominated by the 13-member Friends Board.

**Article VIII. Meetings of the Membership**
- At annual meeting quorum shall be members present.

**Article IX. Policies Concerning Funds**
- Sec. 2. Designated funds expended for the purpose designated; other non-routine expenditures require vote of the Board.
- Sec. 3. Other than for routine expenses as noted in Section 2, expenditure priorities shall be established by the Board in consultation with the Dean.

**Commentary on Changes:** The above changes were written primarily by the Secretary-Treasurer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, and with input from the Dean of Library Services. They were approved by the Friends of Dacus Board via email on April 24-25, 2012.

Because these changes can have a major impact on the organization, they require a vote of the membership. The changes are necessitated by the merger of the current Friends Board with the Library Advisory Board (LAB). Should these modifications be approved, the merger will take place in the year 2013, with joint meetings of the Boards and the gradual phase out of the LAB. At the Fall of 2013 Friends meeting will be the first official election of members to the newly combined Board.

It is the opinion of the Secretary-Treasurer that the only significant change in terms of the operation of the organization and the Friends Board is in Article IX, Sec. 3, which provides for establishment of expenditure priorities in consultation with the Dean of Library Services.” This provision will not impact routine expenses (newsletter production, mailings, most meetings of the group, etc.). Also, it will not impact designated giving, i.e. gifts that a person gives for a certain purpose (buying books in someone’s memory, or for purchase of a designated piece of equipment, etc.). It could, however, impact such things as the expenditure of any undesignated funds (the majority of Friends money) and/or the nature of the provisions in the planned Friends endowment fund. This is why it is imperative that every member read and evaluate the changes and attend the meeting on October 8 prepared to vote on these alterations.
We’ve Got Some Friends … Dean Herring

While the words of James Taylor (http://bit.ly/bZJr66) sound today a bit like a saccharine Hallmark card, they do express a sentiment we herald in this newsletter. (Okay, okay, I admit that during my years of *fin de siècle*, his songs may have resonated … a little.)

In this issue we showcase four individuals (Nancy Cornwell-Daves, Rick and Kay Carlisle, and Kim Lee) who have attained Friends Lifetime Membership Awards. To arrive at this status, these individuals must have given a thousand dollars in a calendar year. If you’ve kept up with us of late and all our musings about libraries (http://bit.ly/PHAl6j), you know that libraries need friends, especially financial ones. This past year has been a library year bonanza, but also one of need. We began with the Pettus Archives, and then turned most recently this past summer to Dacus. Over the course of these past sixteen months, you know we’ve wheedled a bit more about our financial needs than usual.

So, to take this time to thank Nancy, Rick and Kay, and Kim in a special way is especially gratifying. Oh, of course we know this small token of appreciation is small beer in comparison to their grand gifts. But we want to say thank you in a public way, and this seems a good way to do that. In doing so, we’re not minimizing anyone’s gift, regardless of whether that gift was $5 or $5,000. All gifts help us, and no gift is “too small.” We’re delighted to take any amount you wish to give. But let’s face it. If you have to pay off a bill, you know that paying $5 on it each month is better than paying nothing on it at all. You also know that paying $500 a month may well pay it off in one (or two) fell swoop(s).

I know all our lifetime friends members will cringe when I say it, but the fact of the matter is that they have given more than one-thousand dollars. It’s more like thousands. And every one of them has given their time and their talents to improving Dacus and what we are able to offer to our students. We thank them now in this public way, but we can really never thank them enough.

Dacus has made huge strides this summer. If you haven’t been by to see the new main floor, drop everything and come by to see it right now. It is a stunning, fabulous, glorious change to what was a very dated, very 19th century library look. No, it isn’t a new building and we’re still petitioning for one. But it is every bit as breathtakingly beautiful as a new building would have been. What’s more, it moved this library well into the 21st Century.

We’re not done yet, either, or at least I hope not. We still have two other floors in desperate need of uplift, and we are confident that will be done in due course.

The good news is that the main floor, the floor that welcomes each patron to the building, is like a red carpet rolled out just for you. But the news gets even better: you can still be a part of this new and exciting transformation. If you want to give, you can email or call me (at her-ringm@winthrop.edu, 803/323-2232) or you can call or email our development liaison (Nate Brinkley (brinkley@winthrop.edu, 803/323-4906). We have naming opportunities and other special projects, so all you have to do is ask.

We can tell you how you can help in hundreds (or thousands) of ways. All your gifts will also go towards our overall Distinction: The Campaign for Winthrop (For more go here: http://bit.ly/My59M8).

And remember that when you help the library, you’re not merely helping one student or one discipline at Winthrop: You’re helping every student and every discipline at the University!

Dean Mark Y. Herring

Information Commons
August 14, 2012
Things are going to look very different in the Dacus Library of Winthrop University at the beginning of the Fall term 2012. The old rectangular Reference Desk will be but a memory, as the new circular Information Commons, which combines Circulation and Reference, becomes the new focal point of the main floor of the library.

The change constitutes the first major renovation of Dacus Library since it opened its doors in the 1960s. The new main floor will have seven additional group study rooms, including two modern techno-booth rooms and a large presentation room that will seat 15 and will contain both a smartboard and a podium.

Plans are underway for a special “Renovation Celebration” that will be held on September 4. Details are still being worked out, but a lot of student focused activities are planned for that particular date.

Most of our Friends are perhaps familiar with the famous quotation from English author Thomas Carlyle to the effect that “the true university these days is a collection of books.” Then again, most readers know that Charles William Eliot, president of Harvard University, once observed that “the library is the heart of the university.” Of course, books now include electronics as well as traditional print.

To the famous adages of the two well-known Victorian gentlemen can now be appended the sentiment I read in the obituary of the late science fiction author Ray Bradbury, who stated, “Instead of being educated in a college, I was graduated from libraries.”

The point, of course, is that libraries are essential to education of the well-rounded individual, whether he or she attends college or not. Indeed, many a great man and woman have been “graduated from libraries.”

Libraries have changed. We all can see that change. Nevertheless, libraries will still be with us into the foreseeable future. Thus, investing in libraries remains, as it was a century ago, an investment in the future.
As a student of literature and also a teacher for some 42 years, I learned to appreciate the concept of time as measured by watch, calendar, and even a life. Extended literary explorations necessitated my being familiar with different kinds of calendars. I did want to understand something of the writings of James Joyce and, more recently, poems and essays of Irish writer John F. Deane. As a teacher, a worker in a classroom instead of a factory or business office, I had to pay attention to the passing of time and how it was scheduled for classes, appointments, meetings, and, more rarely, free days. With no secretary to remind me of my commitments, I learned to use those “free” calendars which various “charities” sent me in hopes I would remember them while I noted the schedule I had outlined thereon. I maintained several calendars: one at school to remind me of classes, meetings, and appointments, one at home in my kitchen to signal meetings for members of the family and doctor’s appointments for all of us, and one in my office-at-home, to remind me of details from the other two. Whenever I thought of it or could find it, I also made notes in a “planner,” to remind me of everything I need to be doing, when, and where. Having retired, I continue the process, with varying degrees of success.

Do some of you have similar compulsions? My announced excuse is that I am a slow learner. During the Korean War, I had to sail by troopship from Seattle to Yokohama and back, crossing the International Date Line twice, to understand how the Japanese could have initially bombed Pearl Harbor on both December 7 and 8, 1941.

Calendar time indicates that Fall is getting closer and will come, despite my age and eccentricity. All of us need to be reminded that in the Fall we need to renew our Friends of Dacus memberships. Always important, this act will be even more so this year. We are getting close to having raised the $25,000 necessary for Winthrop to establish a Friends’ endowment specifically for Dacus. Membership dues and donations will help us achieve this end.

Mark your calendars, please, for October 8th at 6 p.m. and in the Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Building. Then and there, this organization will hold a banquet, which will honor new Life Members Rick and Kay Carlisle, Kim Lee and Nancy Cornwell-Daves. At that banquet, it will be necessary for the membership as a whole to discuss and, I hope, approve rewritten bylaws for Friends of Dacus and the Library Advisory Committee, making the two one organization and still allowing each to retain its original functions. To stir the pot further, we will also have as our speaker, Caroline B. Cooney, author of The Face on the Milk Carton and some 89 other works of young adult fiction, with sales of some 15,000,000. Eating, discussing/voting, and listening will offer a trinity of activities for the price of one, a “soteriology” even St. Paul might admire. Join us for the occasion. ‘Hurry up, please. It is time!’

Best regards,
Jack W. Weaver
Chair of Friends of Dacus
Emeritus Professor of English
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):
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Rock Hill, SC 29733

On “For” line write:
Friends of Dacus Library