Summer 2014

Friends of Dacus Library

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At 6:30 p.m., April 7, more than 70 students, faculty, staff and friends gathered for Dr. Roger Baumgarte’s presentation on his 2013 book *Friends Beyond Borders: Cultural Variations in Close Friendship*. The author was introduced by Dr. Jane White, Chair of the Friends of Dacus Library. Baumgarte, professor emeritus in psychology and former director of the International Student Center at Winthrop, has much experience in interacting and developing friendships across cultures.

Baumgarte’s commenced his talk with an example of a situation presented to persons of several different cultures: While riding in an auto driven by a friend, one noted that the friend was speeding. This led to an accident in which a pedestrian was hit. The passenger was the only witness and was questioned by police. What should the passenger do? Should he state his friend was or was not speeding? Among Koreans who answered this question, 63% said one should testify that one’s friend was not speeding, while only 7% of Americans gave that answer. This different response was too great to be random. Clearly, the two groups (Koreans & Americans) had very different perceptions of the role of a friend.

Baumgarte noted that he described six different types of friendship in his book, but for purposes of presentation he concentrated on only two: The Interveners and the Independents. Once again he related a story: There were two college friends named Cheryl and Megan. Cheryl was a highly motivated grade-A student, while Megan was not very studious. Cheryl would read over Megan’s work, make corrections and suggest changes. She would instruct Megan in good study habits. This friendship was described to students from France, the U.S., China, Cuba and Spain. The French and Americans saw the Cheryl-Megan relationship as unhealthy and declared Cheryl should mind her own business. Students from the other countries emphasized that Cheryl really cared about Megan and was doing her best to help. This later style was an example of the Intervener style of friendship, while that preferred by the French and American students was the Independent style of friendship. One emphasized actively helping, while the other stressed acceptance of individuality.

Professor Baumgarte noted that close friendships were beneficial in a number of ways, including improving one’s happiness and health. Close friends can be a source of stress relief by allowing one to “unload” with problems. He also maintained longevity could be positively impacted by close friendships and used his mother-in-law Phyllis as a prime example of this.

After giving a number of additional friendship examples, some from his own experiences as well as research, Baumgarte fielded several questions from the audience. Afterwards, he sold and autographed copies of his book, engaging in further spirited exchanges with those present.
Retirement of Bob Gorman, Dacus Library’s Head of Reference

On July 1, Bob Gorman retired from his position as head of reference at the Dacus Library. Thus came to an end 28 years of dedicated professional service at Winthrop University. Bob is holder of a master’s library degree from Emory in Atlanta and an MA in history from Georgia College in Milledgeville. He has, over his years at Winthrop, served on dozens of campus and library committees, taught classes in film studies, and been a guest lecturer both on and off campus.


Bob stated as he left his position, “I have enjoyed my tenure at Winthrop, and will especially miss my wonderful colleagues in the library and on campus.” David, who co-authored a book with Bob and is head of public services, commented on his colleague’s service: “Bob will be greatly missed both for his dedication to meeting the needs of Winthrop students and for his vast knowledge of librarianship.”

Bob has some definite retirement objectives. His immediate retirement plans include travel, spending more time with his grandchildren, and continued research and writing activities.

Kim Wright to Speak at Friends Meeting on 10/6/14

Charlotte author Kim Wright will be the speaker at the Fall Annual Meeting of the Friends of Dacus Library on October 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall. Kim is author of Love in Mid Air (2011), about which Publisher’s Weekly stated: “Wright hits it out of the park in … an engaging account of a woman contemplating divorce.” The book has also been described as “a voyage into the female mind and the nature of friendships between women.” Her most recent novel is The Unexpected Waltz (2014), the story of a middle-aged widow who takes up ballroom dancing.

Wright has also published several volumes in a Victorian mystery series entitled City of Mystery. Prior to her launching her career as a novelist, Wright was for thirty years a journalist. For over 22-years she has edited Walt Disney World for Kids, a very popular Fodor guidebook. She has also produced a book for aspiring writers entitled Your Path to Publication (2011).
We all have various kinds of friends. Some we see only at work, some we see only in the community. Often these groups do not overlap, but sometimes they do. We also have a few special friends who stick with us when things go especially right or especially wrong. All of our friends matter to us, but we all have some friends who matter most.

Library friends are like those friends who matter most. They stick with us through the vicissitudes of library evolution, and they stick with us during unsettled times. For at least the last fifteen years, libraries have gone through some very turbulent times. During part of the early 2000s, some even began to argue, rather insipidly, that libraries were obsolete, and that their day had ended. And over the last, oh, forty years, a pundit here or there will call out that the book is dead, all the while writing a book about it. While we may not yet be beyond such nonsense, I think we can all agree that the enduring value of libraries never ceases.

Library friends matter because they help sustain us over these hiccups. They are our lifelines to innovation, to piloting untried programs, to undergirding old ones, and to establishing edifices. Libraries cannot get along without these friends, friends who are not fair-weather ones but who ride with us the wild waves of the whirling seas of change.

All of you who are reading this have been just that kind of friend to Dacus. From the very establishment of this group decades ago, to the new age of iPads, eBooks, laptops, mobile phones, mobile technologies, manuscripts and electronic access, Dacus Friends have been our close friends through it all. We cannot thank you enough.

Dacus is entering yet another new and exciting time. Over the next few months you’ll hear more about our newly born institutional repository and how it will showcase not only Pettus, but the work of all our faculty across all disciplines. It will make collaboration among faculty and students easier than ever, and provide access to materials that have never seen the light of published day. At the vanguard of this change will be—who else—but the library.

It’s an understatement to say that libraries live in interesting times. They live in interesting and exciting ones! But this library could not make its way through any of them without you, our library friends.

Thank you so much for all you have done, and for all you will continue to do.
FRIENDS OF DACUS LIBRARY ACTIVE AND LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

If your name does not appear below, your membership is inactive for 2014. You may re-new for the current year by using and mailing the attached form or by giving online at www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends/default.htm. Click on “Join Friends Now” & pay by credit card.

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Dr. Jane J. and Bill White
Dr. Earl J. and Elizabeth Wilcox
Dr. Jamie Comstock and Larry Williamson (LIFE)
Boyce and Cathy Wilson

Friends Board Elections at Annual Meeting

The following persons have agreed to serve three-year terms on the Friends Board and will be voted on at the annual meeting 10/6/2014:

**Michelle Chase**, a WU graduate and Teacher/Librarian, Great Falls Elementary School, Chester.


**Kelly M. Costner**, Associate Professor, Richard W. Riley College of Education, Winthrop. These persons will replace those stepping down at the end of 2014: Joye Berman, Doris Leitner, and Joyce Plyler.
Membership Application: The Friends of Dacus Library (Mail to address in box below)

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