



Fall 2016

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Friends of Dacus Library

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Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2

Fall 2016

HECIMOVICH WOWS FRIENDS AT ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 3

Dr. Gregg Hecimovich, department chairman and professor of English at Winthrop University addressed the Friends of Dacus Library at their annual meeting in McBryde Hall on October 3. His fascinating topic, based on his forthcoming book, was “The True Story of Hannah Crafts: America’s First Black Female Novelist.”

In 2001, Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard purchased an African American manuscript entitled “The Bondwoman’s Narrative” and published it in 2002. The work became an instant *New York Times* best-seller. While Gates identified the author’s probable master, he did not locate the author who wrote under the nom de plume Crafts. Hecimovich’s book identifies that first, black female novelist and tells her life story. At once a detective story, a literary chase, and a cultural history, *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts* discovers a tale of love, friendship, and betrayal against the backdrop of America’s slide into Civil War.

In his presentation, Hecimovich outlined how he consulted wills, probate records, census records, and a variety of other sources in his quest to discover the true authoress, Hannah Bond, a house slave that es-

caped from the plantation of John Hill Wheeler of Murfreesboro, N.C. in 1857. She eventually settled in New Jersey and became a school teacher.

Hecimovich tied the story in the novel in with the events of Bond’s youth and the Nat Turner slave insurrection that occurred in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1831, a scant 18 miles from the Wheeler plantation. Wheeler, as head of a local militia unit, apparently had some role in forcefully suppressing the potential spillover of the rebellion in his vicinity. As a result, averred Hecimovich, “Hannah understood the grinning skull behind her master’s smile.”

Hecimovich also found evidence of Crafts’ true identity in the fact that she actually referred to the Wheelers by name in her book, accurately identifying both slaves and other family members. However, these connections required a laborious effort on his part to eliminate other possible authors from among the slaves or



Dr. Hecimovich (L) with Dean Mark Y. Herring at Annual Friends Meeting.

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Wheeler family members. In addition, the pen name Crafts actually came from the family name of Quakers who helped Hannah in her escape north.



LIFE HONOREES AT ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Ronnie Faulkner



Sandra & Spratt White

SPEAKER ON 3/22/17



Dr. Walter B. Edgar, Professor Emeritus in history of the University of South Carolina and well known expert on the State, speaks at 6 p.m. in Kinard Hall, Rm 018.

FRIENDS NEWS: LIFE INDUCTIONS & BUSINESS ON OCT. 3 AND BOARD MEETING, NOV. 3, 2016

At the Annual Meeting on October new Life Members were inducted into the Friends of Dacus Library. They were: Dr. **Ronnie W. Faulkner**, Head of Content Services at Dacus Library and Secretary-Treasurer of the organization; and Mr. **Spratt** and Mrs. **Sandra White** of Fort Mill. Mrs. White is both a current and past member of the Friends of Dacus Library Board.

Officers and Board Members were also elected at the meeting. Prof. **Janet Gray**, Professor of Theatre, was elected Chair; and Dr. **Kelly Costner**, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Middle Level Education, was elected Vice Chair. **Kim Lee**, Class of '80, and **Sandra White**, Class of '63, were elected to 3-year terms of the Friends Board. **Spiro Shetuni**, Collections Access Librarian at Dacus, was elected to complete the remaining year of Dr. Costner's board term as the latter advanced to the Vice Chair position.

BOARD MEETING, 11/3

Dr. Faulkner opened the Board Meeting on Nov. 3 with a Treasurer's report on the status of the Friends Accounts as of Oct. 30. These figures represent the deduction of Annual Meeting expenses of **\$1,354:**

Regular Restricted Acct. \$8,875
Friends Endowed Fund \$65,962
TOTAL ASSETS \$74,801

The Board approved the following actions:

- 1) An honorarium for USC Professor Emeritus Professor Dr. **Walter B. Edgar** to speak at Winthrop on March 22.
- 2) On the recommendation of Dr. **Kelly Costner**, the institution and Friends sponsorship of a Faculty Promotion and Tenure Library Recognition Program in the Fall of 2017 to be modeled after a similar program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (The UNC-G program is described at http://library.uncg.edu/info/events_and_awards/promotion_and_tenure.aspx).
- 3) The issuance of an invitation to Naturalist Rudy Mancke to speak at the Annual Friends Meeting in October of 2017.

WALTER B. EDGAR TO SPEAK ON MARCH 22

As noted in the above story, historian Dr. **Walter B. Edgar** will be on campus to speak on March 22 at 6 p.m. in Kinard Auditorium 018 on the topic "The American Revolution in the Carolina Backcountry." This event will be open to the public and will provide Cultural Event credit for students.



WE NEVER CLOSE... Dean Herring

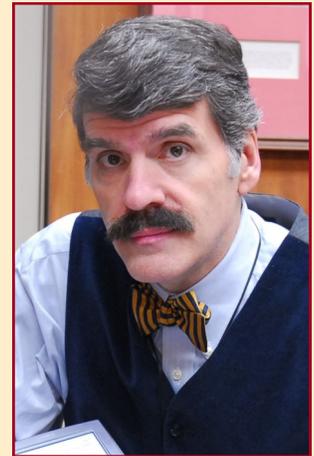
I pen this squib right before the Thanksgiving holidays, and it brings to mind, of course, the holiday itself. It amazes me every year how we tend to squash Thanksgiving between scaring ourselves to death at Halloween and covering ourselves in gifts (and/or debt) at Christmas. Apparently, we have an aversion to taking time to say thanks. Let's resist that oppugnancy with élan, break that vice with a virtue.

Now, I realize we have just come off a difficult election cycle. I say "difficult" rather than the usual adjectives because I know that while this election was bad enough, our history is chock-full of election cycles that were so much worse. If your candidate or side didn't win, I hope you will still give thanks for the freedom that we luxuriate in to have these elections and these differences of opinion with startling regularity. Sure, it's tough when your side loses. But what makes America America is the willingness of its people not to hold grudges, not to name-call the winners or the losers, but to admit defeat, or enjoy victory, and move on to continue doing those things that strengthen this country. The landscape for higher education and libraries remains uncertain, and that is why I want to take this time to say thanks to all our 'friends.' Without you, we could not do half as much as we

do. Your gifts, whether large or small, make it possible for us to make certain changes and/or improvements in services that really make a difference in the intellectual lives of our students.

I think it only appropriate at this time to focus on our 'friends' because they are made up of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and all the rest. All of us, no matter how we voted or whom we pulled for, have come together on this project—Ida Jane Dacus--and are making a difference in the thinking lives of students who attend Winthrop. My guess is that there are enough of us who differ from one another politically as far as the East is from the West. But what is important isn't that distance but that our money is politically adiaphorous, politically neutral, and by pooling it together we accomplish something all of us can cheer about. Perhaps there's a metaphor in there somewhere?

So, once again, thank you. Thank you for joining this effort to make our library matter even more than it already does. Whether you give fifty cents, fifty dollars, or fifty thousand, thank you for making Dacus a point of your generosity. Just like every vote matters, so every dollar counts. All those politically indifferent dollars from politically engaged donors come to-



Dr. Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library
Services

gether and make an enormous difference in what we can do for Winthrop students.

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over and the Christmas rush will be upon us. I hope you'll take time to give yourself a pat on the back if you have joined with these other Friends of Ida Jane Dacus to make her strong for yet another year.

And if you're reading these words and feeling a little guilty that you haven't joined in to help us, there is still time! The donor 'polls' at Dacus never close.

Happy Holidays!



Friends of Dacus Library



Supporting Winthrop's scholarly community since 1996: <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends>

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

THE FRIENDS OF DACUS LIBRARY

Dacus Library
824 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 803/323-2131
Fax: 803/323-2215
<http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/friends>



Prof. Janet Gray
Chair of Friends

Board Members **Effective Jan. 1, 2017:**

- Marsha Bollinger
- Michelle C. Chase
- Kelly Costner (Vice Chair)
- Nancy Davidson
- Ronnie Faulkner
- Janet Gray (Chair)
- Kim Lee
- Terry L. Norton
- Spiro Shetuni
- Joyce Simpson
- Sandra White

A NOTE FROM THE NEW CHAIR

Hello. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Friends of Dacus Library. I am a professor at Winthrop University and the costume designer for the Department of Theater and Dance and I have been a member of the Friends since I moved to Rock Hill eighteen years ago. Libraries have always been a central part of my life. One of the most special events in my childhood was when I received my first library card for the Houston Public Library. It opened new worlds to me. It was in the cavernous stacks of the old downtown library building that I first experienced the wonderful feel and aroma of books – and the promise of adventure, romance, dreams and hours of pleasure. I discovered the “We Were There . . .” series, the delight of “The Secret Garden” and the miniature world of “The Borrowers”. I devoured “A Wrinkle in Time” “The Island of the Blue Dolphin” and “From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.” These stories led to Georgette Heyer, Jane Austin, the Bronte sisters, Raphael Sabatini, Alexandre Dumas, among many other writers, and my living room soon expanded to glorious worlds beyond counting. My family have always been active supporters of libraries. When my grandparents retired to a small

farming community outside Houston my grandmother helped to start, and then ran for the next 35 years, a store front public library which drew patrons from all over the area. She was honored upon her retirement for having shepherded multiple generations of rural high school students through the process of writing pre-internet era research papers and showing them the possibilities of Inter-library loans. My parents are not only constant patrons of their local library branch, but have long been active in the Friends of the Houston Public Library and their annual book sale. My siblings and I carry on this tradition by joining the local Friends wherever we have lived.

While, these days, I get a lot of my research images and information for my costume designs from on-line sources, I still love to search at Dacus. One of the real pleasures of library research is that while looking for one book I always find a dozen others that pique my interest. Nothing can ever truly replace the brick and mortar library building and the joy of being among all the possibilities to be found in all those books. A library is not a luxury but, rather, one of the necessities of life - and libraries need Friends. I look forward to this opportunity to help to promote awareness of the resources to be found at Dacus Library both for the Winthrop campus and the wider Rock Hill community. Perhaps we'll run into each other there.

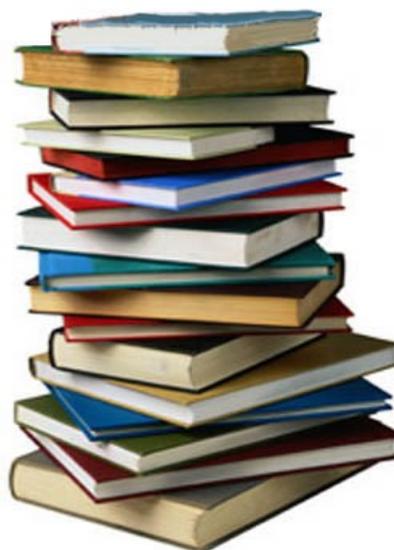


CURRENT ACTIVE/LIFE MEMBERSHIP LIST OF FRIENDS OF DACUS LIBRARY THRU THE YEAR 2017

Please check to see if your name is on this list to assure that your dues are paid up for the year 2017. For practical reasons spouses are treated as members if either join. If you feel that the omission of your name is an error, then notify Dr. Ronnie Faulkner, Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends, at faulknerr@winthrop.edu or call him at 803-323-2262.

Alicia Bagley
Ashley H. & George Barron
Dr. Roger R. Baumgarte
Angela C. Beavers
Dr. Joye Berman
Dr. Marsha S. & Mark Bollinger
Betty R. S. Buff (LIFE)
Rick & Kay Carlisle (LIFE)
Michelle C. Chase
Fred W. & Phyllis Faircloth III
G. Byrns & Alice B. Coleman (LIFE)
Caroline B. Cooney (LIFE)
Nancy Cornwell-Daves (LIFE)
Drs. Kelly & Beth Costner
Gloria O. Crank
Julie Epting (LIFE)
Dr. Ronnie W. Faulkner (LIFE)
Ms. Janet Gray & Russell Luke (LIFE)
James R. & Paula P. Hendricks
Dr. Mark Y. & Carol Herring
Lynn M. Hornsby
Kim & Rick Lee (LIFE)
Doris & Simms "Mac" Leitner
Lateshia Locklear-Theroux
David A. & Judy Lyon IV
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Dr. Spiro J. Shetuni
Baxter G. & Joyce Simpson Jr.
Gale Teaster & Henry Woods
Dr. Jack W. Weaver (LIFE)
Mrs. Ruth K. Webb (LIFE)
David A. White
J. Spratt & Sandra White (LIFE)
Dr. Jane J. & Bill White (LIFE)



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: _____ If you would like your gift to go to the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund (Check): _____

- | | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| Levels: | Life (Individuals Only) | \$1,000.00+ |
| | Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only) | \$500-\$999.99 |
| | Patron | \$200-\$499.99 |
| | Sustaining Member | \$100-\$199.99 |
| | Member | \$50-\$99.99 |
| | Winthrop Student | \$10-\$49.99 |
- Your contribution receipt will provide specific information about any benefit that would affect your tax deductible gift.

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 payable to:
Winthrop University Foundation

Mail to:
Winthrop University Foundation
302 Tillman Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733

In memo line of check write:
Friends of Dacus Library