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November 2008: Friends Festival, Living Abundantly

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Friends Festival Raises Endowment Funds

The Friends of Dacus Library Antiques Roadshow for Books and Fall Festival drew more than 300 visitors to McBryde Hall on Oct. 1, 2008. The event, with proceeds to be used for establishment of a library materials endowment, included book appraisals, a silent auction and a book sale.

Antiquarian bookman Jim Presgraves of Virginia presided over the “Antiques Roadshow” portion of the event; Presgraves provided 50 appraisals, answering visitors’ long-held questions about the value of their antique books. Some of the items turned out to be historically significant treasures; others were of considerable value in the antiquarian market, and a few others were lovely, but not quite rare.

The silent auction featured a wide variety of items including original art and jewelry, hand-painted wine goblets and champagne flutes.

All silent auction prizes were donated by Winthrop faculty, staff, administrators and alumni.

The book sale was comprised of donated materials; the large, open space of McBryde Hall allowed visitors ample room to browse the collections of materials which had been placed on tables and arranged by subject.

The Antiques Roadshow for Books and Fall Festival required nearly a year of planning, including determining a date and location, arranging for parking, securing items for the silent auction and preparing materials for the book sale. The program would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of the many volunteers from both the Winthrop and Rock Hill communities whose efforts ensured the great program’s tremendous success.

Antje Mays
Head, Monographs Acquisitions

Antiquarian Jim Presgraves addresses attendees of the Friends of the Library Fall Festival
Living Abundantly: Origins of the York Homemakers Council

The records of the York County Extension Homemakers Council, located in Winthrop University’s Louise Pettus Archives, offer a good look at the advent and development of extension work in rural areas of South Carolina during the first half of the 20th century. Home demonstration clubs were developed to assist rural families to “live affectively and to live abundantly.” The state agents would provide information and demonstrations on such topics as housing, food and nutrition, clothing, poultry, gardening, dairying, and increasing a means of income for farm women.

In May 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, establishing a national system of extension work in agriculture and home economics. The northern states did not begin agricultural and home demonstration work until after the passage of the Smith-Lever Act.

From the beginning of the state program, home demonstration work in South Carolina was headquartered at Winthrop in Rock Hill. The State Agent had her office at Winthrop and the activities of all county home demonstration agents were handled through the college. Programs, brochures, booklets, handbooks, and other educational materials and presentations were developed at the Winthrop offices. Statewide training sessions for both agents and club members were held each year at Winthrop. In 1959 the extension work, as home demonstration later became known, moved to Clemson where the agricultural extension work had been based.

York County women organized some of the earliest home demonstration clubs in the state. Friendship Demonstration Club was organized in 1912 by York County Agent Miss Minnie Lee Garrison. Mrs. F. W. Gryder was elected president and Mrs. W. H. Hill, secretary/treasurer. Charter members were Mrs. E. P. Neely, Mrs. R. H. Cornwell, Mrs. Carl Cornwell, Mrs. J. J. Hope, Mrs. S. W. H. Smith, Mrs. Will McCullough, Mrs. John Carter, Mrs. A. N. Morgan, Mrs. Rob Clark, Mrs. Tim Kilgo, and Miss Edna Kaylor. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. E. P. Neely and the topic of discussion was “Setting the Table and Serving the Meal.”

The Sharon Home Demonstration Club was organized in 1913 by Minnie Lee Garrison. The first meeting was an all day affair held under the shade trees at the home of Mrs. R. H. Cain. In addition to the home demonstration sessions offered by the agents, the Sharon club also participated in creating booths for the York County Fair, assisting in the beautification and improvements of their schools, and raising poultry.

In December 1916, a group of seven ladies met at the home of Mrs. Will Coltharpe and organized the Gold Hill Home Demonstration...
Club. Along with Mrs. Coltharpe, the ladies were Mrs. Karl Farris, Mrs. S. L. Coltharpe, Mrs. W. H. Crook, Mrs. Gracie Windell, Mrs. Said Sutton, and Mrs. Ada Wilson. This club, also organized by Minnie Lee Garrison, had as their first program “How to Make Ornamental Christmas Flowers.” They learned to make poinsettias with the petals made of red beads and the leaves of green beads.

Another early club organized in York County was the Dixie Home Demonstration Club. It was formed in 1918 by Minnie Lee Garrison and derived its name from the school building in which they met. The first president of the club was Mrs. R. N. Plaxico. For the first few years, the programs and demonstrations concerned food production, preservation, and conservation.

Other clubs were formed in York County over the next several years. On Saturday, August 14, 1920, 29 home demonstration club members, representing nine of the 11 clubs in the county, met at the Chamber of Commerce in York to form the Officer’s Advisory Council of Home Demonstration Clubs. This organization was later known as the York County Council of Farm Women and eventually the York County Extension Homemaker’s Council. The Advisory Council was under the direction of Miss Juanita Neely, the York County Home Demonstration Agent. The officers elected were Miss Minnie Lee Garrison, president; Mrs. J. T. Garrison, vice-president; and Miss Lille Ashe, secretary. This group met again on September 24 to discuss the addition of community booths at the county fair. This meeting resulted in five community booths and two small exhibits at the 1920 York County Fair. A third meeting in December 1920 was attended by Miss Christine South (later Mrs. Nathaniel Gee), the State Agent who helped the Council members write a petition for the York County Legislative Delegation to present to the legislature requesting appropriation of funds necessary for demonstration work.

Some of the other clubs formed in York County were Bethel, Bethesda, Catawba, Cotton Belt, D. E. L. (Delphos, East View, and Latta communities), Ebenezer, Hickory Grove, India Hook, McConnells, Mt. Holly, Newport, Oak Ridge, and Ogden. By the early 1950s, there were sixteen active clubs and over 350 members in the county.

Home demonstration work in South Carolina provided a source of education for rural women statewide. Home demonstration agents taught farm women how to improve their lives and add to the family’s income by providing markets in which to sell their surplus fruits and vegetables as well as their handiwork. Today, home demonstration is often relegated to the files pertaining to what women did before they were enlightened. However, the pioneering efforts of these resourceful women helped lay the groundwork for the women’s movement of the 1970s and beyond.

Gina Price White
Head, Louise Pettus Archives

Biscuit contest sponsored by the York County home demonstration clubs in 1921
Focus

One Stop Pick-up for Requested Items

Beginning this fall, all materials requested via Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services will be picked up at the Circulation Desk. In the past, ILL materials were picked up at the Reference Desk.

The decision to consolidate locations was made in order to streamline the pickup process for patrons. Now all requested materials, including those materials requested via PASCAL Delivers, Interlibrary Loan, and local holds, will be ready for the patron to retrieve at the Circulation Desk.

In addition, all materials should now be returned either at the Circulation Desk or via the book drop located outside the building. This includes Interlibrary Loan and PASCAL Delivers items.

Faculty members who have graduate or research assistants may also apply online for a Dacus Library Proxy Account. This type of account allows the assistant to pickup materials and place orders via PASCAL Delivers or Interlibrary Loan on behalf of the faculty member.

Once a proxy account application is received, account information will be emailed to the faculty and proxy person, and a card will be placed in campus mail for use by the proxy when picking up materials.

Questions regarding these changes and new services should be directed to the Circulation Department at 803-323-4502.

Carrie Volk
Interlibrary Loan Coordinator

Active People


Bob Gorman and David Weeks, reference, discussed their book, Death at the Ballpark, on the July 23 edition of WFAE-FM’s Charlotte Talks. They were also guests on the Aug. 6 edition of South Carolina ETV’s Piedmont Politics with Terry Plumb.

Mark Herring, dean, was the guest presenter at the webinar, “Dumbest Generation or Clueless Older Educators?” for the LearningTimes Network, Oct. 2. He also attended the Institute of Museum and Library Services Awards Ceremony in Washington Oct. 7. The event, held in the East Room of the White House, was hosted by First Lady Laura Bush.

Andy Johnston and Gina White, archives, attended the South Carolina Archival Association Conference held Oct. 8 at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia.

Jackie McFadden, government documents, was elected chair of the South Carolina Library Association’s Government Documents Roundtable for 2008–09.

Antje Mays, acquisitions, served as program planner for the Friends of Dacus Library for 2008.


David Weeks, reference, presented “A Constantly Changing Freshman Information Literacy Program” at the Metrolina Information Literacy Conference in Charlotte, held June 19.