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December 2009: Can PASCAL Be Saved?

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Focus

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Can PASCAL Be Saved?

Imagine if you will the near perfect state-funded program. Yes, I know, such words sound like an oxymoron given the track record of both state and federally-funded programs, past, present and undoubtedly in the future.

Indeed, such words sound almost mythological in light of recent attempts by the federal government to spend us out of the current recession with still doubtful results (so far, a record deficit). Yet, you're an imaginative individual and can put aside petty political differences and visualize such a program.

Not only does this program do precisely what it said it would do, it does it so surprisingly well that as a taxpayer you're completely astonished and whole-heartedly impressed.

Let's further suppose—so long as it's all supposition—that we daily witness the success of this program, not only to those for whom it was originally intended, but also to many others who by virtue of their station or accident of location, also benefit wonderfully from this program.

Now, it's morning in the Palmetto State and we wake from our dream: our state legislature cuts the funding to this program by more than 90%!

Let truth be told: this was no imaginary program, but PASCAL, Partnerships Among South Carolina Academic Libraries. And, sad to say, nothing about the story above has been fictionalized in any detail.

PASCAL did prove to be hugely successful for every two-year and four-year, public and private academic library in South Carolina. Yes, it did return more than six dollars for every state dollar it received. And this state program does everything the governor asked; it is collaborative, cooperative and shares resources across the state.

The *raison d'être* of PASCAL did just these very things, every one of them, and in the most efficacious way imaginable. So what went wrong?

With PASCAL, nothing at all. Clearly the economy—our state's, our nation's and the world's—took a nosedive, partly because of the global economic meltdown, but partly, too, at least in South Carolina, because of the ill-advised change from property taxes to a sales tax.

When the economy tanked, so did tourism in the Palmetto State, and with it any tax revenues the state hoped to collect. Naturally, all state programs had to cut back, tighten their belts, and scale back as much as possible.

But PASCAL lost more than 90% of its budget, from \$2 million to \$170,000 today. PASCAL's total budget from the state totaled only two million dollars. That's two million out of a twenty billion dollar state budget.

PASCAL occupied one ten-thousandth of the budget. Legislators chose to all but kill a program that occupied one ten-thousandth of the budget that served over 200,000 students, faculty and staff in the state of South Carolina.

Our state seal reads in part, "*Animis Opibusque Parati*," or "ready in soul and resources." If you're trying to re-tool in this very bad Palmetto economy, however, only your soul is ready. The resources are not only drying up, they're being taken away.

Some legislators will ask you, if PASCAL is such a great deal, why don't the institutions just fund it themselves? Besides, they did it this year. That's politician logic that defies, well, comprehension by everyday taxpayers. Academic institutions forwent various important initiatives to keep the PASCAL patient alive for one more academic year.

Lost initiatives like positions, books, and services that students, faculties and staffs rely upon paid for the one-year life-extension. Academic institutions funded PASCAL this year because it is the right thing to do, because it is such an excellent program, and because, well, the mind is a terrible thing to waste.

But consortia like PASCAL only work when the costs aren't prohibitive, and the state's largesse—remember, one ten-thousandth of the state budget—provides just that right amount of coverage to make it work perfectly. After this year, however, without that \$2 million in funding, PASCAL will unravel.

State legislators once saw the wisdom of funding PASCAL and courageously did so. We need courageous legislators once again.

Funding PASCAL is what the young call a "no-brainer." And yet here we are, waiting with baited breath to see what will happen. PASCAL does not help Winthrop alone, but every academic institution in the state. It provides the necessary intellectual tools for our young people to succeed in the 21st Century.

PASCAL is cost-effective, collaborative, and cooperative. PASCAL is the poster-program of shared resources.

But without PASCAL, we saddle our state with deadheads, with a brain drain, and the possibility of jeopardizing accreditations statewide.

Funding PASCAL really is a no-brainer. Now all we have to do is convince decision-makers that it really, *really* is the only wise choice to make.

Mark Y. Herring
Dean of Library Services

Focus

The Lost Art of Letter Writing



Gina White

Letter writing is quickly becoming a lost art. Future historians may look back at our lack of documentary evidence and conclude that we seldom communicated with each other in writing.

Following are two examples of letters written by college-aged people of the 19th century that are located in small manuscript collections in the Louise Pettus Archives.

The Abell Family lived in northern Chester County, S.C. in the 19th century. Descendants of the family live in the same area today. The Archives has a nice collection of letters, deeds, legal documents and other papers concerning this family. Most of the letters in the collection are written to Joshua L. Abell from his family and friends. Ainsly W. Darby, who was attending Catawba College at the time, wrote to Josh Abell on August 20, 1867.

Dear Friend,

I will [illegible] a few moments in writing to you. Josh, you will excuse me for not writing sooner I hope. I have not written much since I came back. I have four lessons every day—Composition once or twice a month, Declamation the same, Elocution once a week and Debate every Friday night. I have just recited seven pages in *Philosophy* and at 2 o'clock I have seven propositions to demonstrate in *Geometry*. Then at 3 o'clock a lesson in *Davies Universal Arithmetic* of 83 examples, my other lesson comes off early in the morning. Josh, tonight is the night for Debate, come up and see me explode an *Observation*. The *Question* for debate is "Which is the greater source of Knowledge, Reading or Observation?"

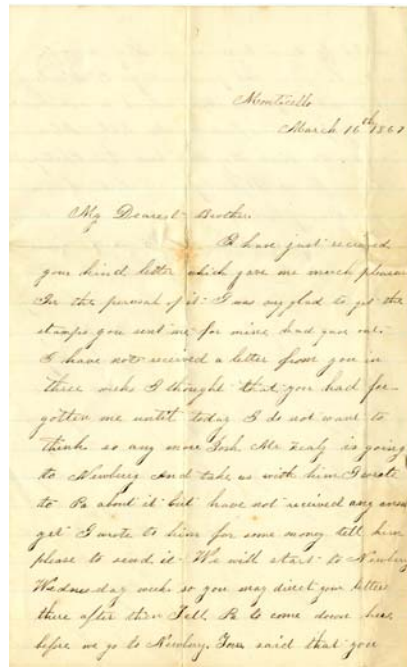
I will have to go to dinner so no more.

Yours with the best feelings of regard,

Ainsly W. Darby

P.S. Don't you let Mr. Boyd see my letters for this session. I know he is able to criticize them and most any one else would be if you would let them see them. A.W.D. College students neverchange. The load of studying gets in the way of everything else.

The following letter, found in the David Hope Sadler Papers, was written



Abell Letter

by another student, E.D. Crawford, to his friend Kiah Sadler in Rock Hill, S.C. and concerns his studies and other subjects of interest to young men.

February 16th 1859

In my room. nocte

Dear Kiah,
I have thus secured this opportunity of returning an answer to your kind & truly interesting letter, which came to hand on Thursday last welcomingly & promptly to my expectations, after having finished my studies for the

night, which generally takes me till 10 and sometimes 11 o'clock.

I was indeed truly glad to hear from you as being well & satisfied with your new business which I hope will make you an industrious & useful man. I hope that all your uncle's family are well & doing well.

You requested me in your letter to give you the true tale—whether Warren & Jim have gone to college or not.

The first Saturday after I came to Ebenezer a crowd of the Students among was I, went to R. H. to hear an address on the Subject of temperance by the Rev. Mr. Watson. There I saw Hutch who told me that they had gone down to the South Carolina College, not to enter College but to the preparatory school where they will prepare for the Sophomore Class by next fall.

Neither W. or J. has written to me yet. Kiah, I am living at one of the best places I ever saw—at Mr. Barnett's residence—surrounded with everything convenient or necessary to make me happy, I hope, while here.

I like the family who are a pious people. I like my roommate Mr. Ivy who is a studious & intelligent young man and I like my boarders who are seven in number & who dwell downstairs in a little out study. As to my teacher, I cannot be better pleased. His different manner, ways of instruction and his ever kind & gentle humor & attention to his students attach me to him a great deal more than to any one I have heretofore gone to.

He is indeed a noble teacher. On every Saturday we have to recite in Algebra and History. We have just commenced the history this evening and the first lesson he gave us was four pages. Besides history, I am studying Latin & Greek, Geometry & Algebra, which keep me busy all the time, so much so that I fear when they send after me, I cannot go home. I am well pleased with the students of whom there are about 55 or 60. Two came today and more still coming. Saturday

Continued on next page

Focus

The Marsh Tacky: Advocates for a State Symbol

State Horse Bill H. 3044 – A Bill to Designate the Marsh Tacky as the State Horse of South Carolina.

For the past few years, Patti Stafford and I have been researching Marsh Tacky horses, a critically endangered strain of Colonial Spanish horse that is unique to South Carolina.

I had always heard of feral horses on the South Carolina Sea Islands but did not know that they still existed until a bill to designate them as the state horse of South Carolina was presented and defeated. I was shocked!

The Marsh Tacky is the only horse, in my opinion, that could hold such a title. We wanted to learn more about this breed and find out why the bill was defeated in 2007. We went to the planning meeting of the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association on John's Island to do a little research. I looked over the original bill and decided that it should be rewritten. I sent the new bill to my Representative, Gary Simrill, and he introduced it to the South Carolina General Assembly in January 2009.

The bill is currently stalled in the House Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee because it is not being supported by the majority of the committee members. It is puzzling why the bill has met such opposition.

State symbols are chosen to reflect the cultural heritage, natural beauty, and character of the state making the Marsh Tacky the only choice for State Horse.

From its abandonment on South Carolina shores some 500 years ago to

its last stronghold on the South Carolina Sea Islands, the Marsh Tacky survived virtually on its own and repeatedly assisted our forefathers in the development and defense of our state.

Marsh Tackies were the major source of transportation in the Lowcountry before the introduction of the automobile. The horses were used wherever horsepower was needed; to pull plows, and wagons, herd cattle, hunt wild game, deliver the mail, transport families, or as loyal sturdy mounts in times of war.

During the American Revolution, Marsh Tackies assisted in the victories of the famous "Swamp Fox," General Francis Marion.

The small, sure-footed Marsh Tackies were superbly adapted to the Lowcountry's dense, swampy, terrain enabling Marion's troops to out maneuver the British who rode larger European horse breeds.

Marsh Tackies are able to travel long distances without fatigue and survived on forage reducing the need for troops to transport supply wagons carrying grain. Marsh Tackies also

served the Southern Confederate Cavalry in the Civil War and helped to protect our mainland during World War II with the Coast Guard's Mounted Beach Patrol.

Across the United States, people recognize the Marsh Tacky as something special and uniquely South Carolinian, a claim no other breed can make. To recognize this amazing horse

is to recognize the countless generations of South Carolinians who used Marsh Tackies to construct the foundations upon which the state was built.

In January, the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association and I will try again to persuade our representatives to honor the Marsh Tacky by designating it as the State Heritage Horse. We will also introduce an identical bill in the Senate.

The bill is gathering support; chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy are now endorsing the bill.

I have high hopes for the second session of the 118th South Carolina General Assembly.

Jackie McFadden
Head of Government Documents



Marsh Tacky



Phil Hayes riding D.P.

Continued from page 2

before last I wrote my first composition. The subject was on the cultivation of fruit trees. By next Saturday, I will have another to write.

Kiah, I almost forgot to tell you I saw Miss Mattie Steele at church here last Sunday and Sunday before. I sat in a very conspicuous place both times and fancied I saw her looking at me any time I would look towards her. I suppose she thought so with me. Some of the boys wanted an introduction to her but I said "No Sir."

Kiah, I have written till it is late & I am all out of news.

So good night.

Receive the best wishes for yourself your friend can give.

E. D. Crawford

Although the fascinating practice of letter writing may be going the way of the horse and buggy and the 5-inch floppy disk, there are still many examples in Archives of this rapidly vanishing art to remind us of the time and effort people put into it just a few short years ago.

Gina Price White
Head of Louise Pettus Archives

Dacus Library Open House - The Quest for Encore

On Thursday, October 22, Dacus Library launched a new library home page with a Quick Search box to Encore and ResearchPro. To commemorate this event, the library held an Open House.

There were several activities for the students to enjoy. Interested students up for a challenge could choose to participate in the treasure hunt.

The hunt took the students to eight different areas in the library. At each location, the treasure seekers had to find the clue to the next location. Different types of clues challenged the students; such as thinking of synonyms, unscrambling words, analyzing picture clues and solving word puzzles.

After completing the hunt, the students received a nice prize packet, including a Dacus Library flash drive. They also enjoyed a pizza lunch.

The students overwhelmingly enjoyed the actual hunt, "looking for and figuring out the clues," and "solving the riddles" were two of their comments.

While enjoying their pizza, the students were treated to a demonstration of our new homepage and



Carrie Volk at the final station of the Quest for Encore

the searching techniques of Encore and ResearchPro. One student said, "I liked the whole thing. It was fun."

All students were eligible to enter a drawing for a gift bag and a \$50 iTunes card for first prize and a \$25 iTunes card for second prize.

There was also a 'Guess the Number of Pieces of Halloween Candy in the Display Case' contest for the students to enter. Three

students came within 1 number of the total of 328 pieces of candy.

Committee 2010: Library Outreach planned, organized, and promoted the event. The Committee is currently planning future events, including refueling stations on Study Day, an online treasure hunt and a Spring Egg Hunt.

Susan Silverman
Head of Public Services

Active People

Bob Gorman and David Weeks, reference, and their book "Death at the Ballpark," were mentioned in S.L. Price's excerpt "Hit in the Head" published in Sports Illustrated, April 20, 2009.

Mark Herring, dean, was recently interviewed in the Fall 2009 issue of Library Leadership & Management. The article addressed his leadership role in the library and how he provides leadership opportunities within his middle management staff.

Jackie McFadden, government documents, attended two conferences in October, the Federal Depart-

ment Library Conference, October 19-21 in Washington, D.C.; and the SCLA Conference, October 28-30 in Columbia, S.C.

Gale Teaster-Woods, serials, served on the NASIG Conference Planning Committee of the 2009 Conference held June 4-7, 2009 in Asheville, N.C.

Carrie Volk, systems librarian, presented at the South Carolina Library Association conference on October 29. The program was titled "Nearly Paperless Interlibrary Loan" and showed how Dacus Library has utilized the ILL management software Clío to become "nearly" paperless.

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*Linda Walrod, Co-Editor
Kaitlin Burdette, Co-Editor
<http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/>*

Linda Walrod, circulation, was a recipient of an SCLA Presidential Citation on October 29 for her winning photograph "Pascal DOES Deliver" in the SCLA's 3rd Annual "Day in the Life of South Carolinas' Libraries" photo contest.