Rod Gragg to Speak in the Fall; Mary Jane Ryals Book Talk Success

Plans are proceeding for an exciting annual fall meeting of the Friends of Dacus Library on October 7. This year is the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War, an event in which South Carolina played a pivotal role. In recognition of this historic occasion, Rod Gragg, author, historian, and director of the Center for Military & Veterans Studies at Coastal Carolina University, will give the keynote address at the annual meeting. He holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism (1972) and a master’s degree in history (1979) from the University of South Carolina. His wife, Cindy Outlaw Gragg, graduated from Winthrop in 1975 with a degree in English.

Gragg has authored 16 books. One work, Covered With Glory: The 26th North Carolina Infantry at the Battle of Gettysburg, published by HarperCollins and UNC Press, earned the James I. Robertson Award as the year’s best Civil War book. His history of the battle of Fort Fisher, Confederate Goliath, won both the Fletcher Pratt Award and the Clarendon Cup, and was the basis for a PBS documentary. His 2010 work, Forged in Faith: How Faith Shaped the Birth of the Nation, 1607-1776, published by Simon & Schuster, has been nominated for the George Washington Book Prize. His newest book, By the Hand of Providence: How Faith Shaped the American Revolution, will be published by Simon & Schuster in July.

Last November 9, the Friends of Dacus Library hosted a reading featuring award-winning Florida author Mary Jane Ryals. Ryals read selected passages from her latest novel, Cookie and Me, a part fiction, part autobiographical work that focuses on inter-racial friendship in the early 1960s segregated South. The event, held on the Winthrop University campus at the Little Chapel, was attended by nearly 30 guests. Ryals, whose grandmother was a 1924 Winthrop graduate, noted in her introductory remarks that it was her grandmother who inspired her to pursue a writing career.

“Before she met my grandfather, she taught high school English in Daytona Beach and she was the grandparent who influenced and inspired me the most when I was growing up,” Ryals said. Later, she commented how the historical setting of the Little Chapel added an element of nostalgia for her and her younger brother, Robert, a faculty member at the library. “Being here tonight among the Friends of Dacus Library symbolizes my family’s connection to the greater Winthrop family,” Ryals added. Since her Winthrop visit last fall, Ryals has received accolades for her work and has been promoting the novel on a tour across the Southeast.
Welcome from Dean Herring

New Day Coming

It’s a great day in Dacus!

Now this must seem a very unusual way to begin an article about Dacus. Here we are in the middle of the worst economic downturn in more than fifty years. How is it possible that it could be a great day in Dacus?

Since I arrived in 1999, Winthrop has been talking about a new library. Each year we stepped a little closer to the realization of that goal, and in the mid-2000s, we came ever so close. Then, 2008 and après le deluge, the financial l’assommoir. It became painfully clear that a new Dacus would not emerge from the global financial ruins soon. On the other hand, something had to be done. Dacus was built in 1968, the same decade in which business spent $0 dollars annually on automation. Today, those costs number in the billions. Likewise, in 1968, automation had not touched any library. Today, almost nothing can be done without a connection to the Internet. In light of such competing forces, how could Dacus be enhanced, given that she occupied close to 100% of the available space? How could Dacus be repurposed for 21st Century students?

The answer came when the former Bookworm became available. The Louise Pettus Archives, home to over six million items, could be moved to this location and the space left vacant refashioned into spaces that Winthrop students told us repeatedly they wanted and needed. The Pettus Archives will vacate about 7500 square feet and occupy about three times that much in the building on the corner of Charlotte and Cherry Road. So what does all this mean?

For the Pettus Archives, it means a grand building to house its treasures with room to grow. It means newly designed spaces for exhibits, workshops, collaborations and more. It provides us with naming opportunities for the Pettus Archives (conference room, researcher areas, display cases and more). It also means convenient parking right next to the building! We foresee a tremendous opportunity to expand hours, showcase collections, and better connect with the Winthrop and Rock Hill communities. Finally, the Pettus Archives will have a home that matches its treasured trove.

And for the grand old lady herself?

For Dacus, it means 24-hour access for our students, groups study areas, and individualized study spaces, all three the top priorities students told us about when we surveyed them this fall. It also means a new space for our Children’s Literature collection, about 12,000 volumes of mainly Newberry and Caldecott award winners. Our elementary education majors will now have a place to come and tutor young children in reading and literacy skills from the local schools without disturbing other students who are studying. It also means techno-booths (see at left), the latest in group study areas.

Did I mention it’s a great day in Dacus? Indeed, it is. Perhaps you want to help us with this project? We have numerous ways that you can, including naming opportunities, spaces, equipment and more. There is no better time than now to step up and help Dacus meet the ongoing demands of 21st Century students.
Changes in the Library: Physical and Metaphysical

Dacus Library and the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections will be undergoing some dramatic changes in 2011-12. The first of these changes involves the relocation of the entire Archives operation during the summer of 2011 to the former Bookworm, at 700 Cherry Road. Renovations of the new facility, installation of compact shelving, tables, display cases, wiring for the campus network, and numerous other improvements will precede the probable June-July move.

The above move also frees up considerable space in Dacus Library for more storage and more study space for students. A part of the current plan calls for creation of a large new 24-hour study area—an improvement ranked number one in student surveys. This area will be located near the current reference stacks and will include one large study room and six smaller rooms, as well as vending machines and restroom access. When the main library is closed, generally around midnight, another entrance will be opened for 24-hour access. In addition to this refurbished area, additional study areas, storage space, etc., will be renovated for use on the second and ground floors.

In addition to these changes in the physical facilities, it now appears that 2011-12 will be the year of the electronic book. A combination of budgetary and space considerations have conspired to bring about a new reality for libraries in general and Dacus in particular. For the first time, a significant part of library material allocations will go toward the purchase of e-books, including a 52,000 title academic collection called Ebrary. There will also be Demand-Driven Acquisitions (DDA) of selected e-books based on utilization and requests by faculty and students. What this means is that, while the library will still order print books, the numbers ordered will be less than in the past. Nevertheless, under the new ordering schemata, more books than ever before will be available to Winthrop faculty, students, and other users for teaching, research, and reading purposes. Increasingly fewer of those books, however, will be in the traditional paper-print format.

The change we are envisioning has already happened in the periodical realm. Very few students or faculty utilize print versions of articles. Over the past 15 years the number of print periodical subscriptions at Dacus has dropped, while database subscriptions have skyrocketed. This has meant more access to information by more persons than ever before, and ten times as many periodicals as were ever subscribed to in print format. The change on the monographic front, owing to the problems still inherent in reading entire books in e-format, while likely to be less dramatic, is nonetheless going to be steady. Reference books and research materials will be the first types of books to go exclusively electronic. The change will require adaptation to a radically different world of knowledge. But, fear not dear friends, the printed book will still be with us for years to come!

"Online reading will never replace the physical and emotive delight of a lovely fat papery book."

—"The Death of the Book, Again" www.guardian.co.uk
Actions of the Board at 2 March 2011 Meeting

The Friends of Dacus Library Board met at the Sahara Mediterranean Restaurant on March 2, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Weaver.

At this meeting, the Board approved a resolution to grant a Life Membership to Miss Louise Pettus, a longtime and generous benefactor of the Archives and Special Collections of Dacus Library. Said presentation will be made at a later date.

The Board also approved the issuance of an invitation to Rod Gragg, of Coastal Carolina University, to speak at the fall meeting of the Friends of Dacus Library. Dr. Ronnie Faulkner was authorized to make the necessary arrangements.

Dr. Faulkner reported that there was currently $15,574.53 in two accounts of the Friends group.

Shetuni Book on Albanian Music to be Published

Dr. Sprio J. Shetuni, associate professor and authority control librarian at Dacus Library, just completed his study entitled Albanian Traditional Music: An Introduction, with Sheet Music and Lyrics for 48 Songs, which is being published by McFarland, Jefferson City, N.C. The book should be available in July.

Shetuni holds his Ph.D. from Tirana State University (Albania) and an M.L.S. from Kent State. He has made numerous contributions in the field of European ethnomusicology and is recognized by a long entry in The Encyclopedia of Albanian Traditional Music (2001).

This latest book examines the distinct musical culture of southeastern Europe and will open the world of Albanian musical scholarship to English readers.

“[The Book] will never be surpassed because it represents the minimum technology with the maximum interaction you can have.”
—Isaac Asimov 1989
DDA, not Dada: The New World of Electronic Books!

What do Ebrary, electronic reference collections, and Demand-Driven Acquisitions (DDA) have in common? Plenty, when it comes to supporting today’s students who need access to books beyond the library building. Many students today work, often several jobs throughout the day, with classes scheduled around and in between work times. These fragmented, full schedules bring the need to access books remotely — in the same way users can access journal databases from off campus. The solution? E-books! The library is currently reviewing Ebrary’s Academic Complete, a full-text database of scholarly books that can be reached via computers and smart phones. The next generation will make titles downloadable to smart phones and e-book readers.

DDA: A strategic form of e-book purchasing places a smorgasbord of newly published titles at users’ fingertips even before the library owns them! Records for newly published books are loaded into the library’s online catalog, where students and faculty will find them at the point of their coursework and research. When users click into the title for detail, they gain access to the full e-book and can immediately use it for their research. Such use then generates a purchase request for the library. When the library owns the title, it too can be accessed from both on and off campus.

Why all this e-book remote access and e-reader downloadability? Students’ schedules are filled to the brim, making each moment precious for getting their research done. Technology enabling on and off campus access helps all researchers maximize the amount of research they can do within their limited time. When the e-books become downloadable with e-book vendors’ future platforms, users will be able load them onto their e-book readers and smart phones — handy for fieldwork in remote locations. Students studying abroad for a semester can currently log into our e-book collections from anywhere in the world. Soon, they will be able to download also!

Bi-Lo Boosters for Dacus

You can still support Dacus Library through Bi-Lo Boosters Plus!

Thanks for supporting the library with your Bi-Lo grocery purchases this year! The current year ends May 31. It’s not too late to sign up for this year. Remember, however, if you do sign-up for this year, you will need to “re-up” on or after July 1 when Bi-Lo starts its next Boosters Plus year!

The procedure simply requires use of the barcode below! You take it to the store and have it linked to your Bi-Lo card by having it scanned by the cashier. Starting in July, you need to have it rescanned or else acquire a new plastic keychain card that will be made available through the Friends of Dacus Library for 2011-12.
Current Members of the Friends of Dacus Library

Mrs. Judith W. Aplin  Mr. David A. Lyon IV
Dr. Roger R. Baumgarte  Ms. Antje Mays
Mr. Merle and Dr. Joye Berman  Mrs. Frances “Kay” D. McSpadden
Dr. Marsha S. Bollinger  Ms. Jane W. Mitchell
Mrs. Doris T. Browder  Ms. Jan Owings
Mrs. Gloria O. Crank  Dr. & Mrs. Jerry H. Padgett
Mrs. Nancy M. Davidson  Mrs. Elizabeth D. Patrick
Dr. Anthony J. & Gale DiGiorgio  Miss Louise Pettus
Mr. Marshall & Gloria Doswell Jr.  Dr. Peter C. Phillips
Dr. Ronnie W. Faulkner  Mr. & Mrs. Terry C. Plumb
Judge Jane D. Fender  Hon. James H. Rex & Dr. Susan J. Smith -Rex
Mr. William L. & Hannalie Ferguson  Dr. Marilyn S. Sarow
Mr. Edmund J. & Patricia FitzGerald  Mr. Baxter G. & Joyce Simpson Jr.
Mr. Russell E. Luke & Ms. Janet Gray  Mr. Joseph T. & Kathe Stanley
Mrs. Mary Gene R. Hardin  Dr. Martha Sue “Mickey” Taylor
Dr. Mark Y. & Carol Herring  Mrs. Gale Teaster-Woods
Mrs. Lynn M. Hornsby  Dr. Jack W. Weaver
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Johnston  Mr. J. Spratt & Sandra White
Mrs. Ellen B. Lane  Mr. Boyce & Cathy Wilson
Mr. Simms M. & Doris Leitner

Glencairn Garden
Rock Hill, S.C.

“FRIENDSHIP
IS A
SHELTERING
TREE.”
—SAMUEL TAYLOR
COLERIDGE

Don’t see your name on the membership list?  Time to renew!  Use the form below, cut out, and mail.

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):

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<th>__ Alumni</th>
<th>__ Faculty/Staff</th>
<th>__ Friend</th>
<th>__ Parent</th>
<th>__ Student</th>
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Amount of Gift: ________________________________________________

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

If you wish to make a gift in honor of ____, or in memory of ____ someone, check blank and please indicate whom:

Name/address of person to be notified about honor/memorial in box at right:

Make check out to:
Winthrop University Foundation
Sykes House
638 Oakland Ave.
Rock Hill, SC 29733
On “For” line write: Friends of Dacus Library
Dear Friends,

However one feels about “that late unpleasantness,” a phrase captured from an Alabama lady interviewed in a Ken Burns special, 2011 is the anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War in South Carolina. As such, it will be featured throughout this year. The April issue of the Smithsonian Magazine has a lengthy, pictorial article already. On April 3 through April 7, ETV reran Ken Burns’s film series on the Civil War, 8 to 10 p.m. Friends of Dacus Library, for our Fall meeting, have scheduled Rod Gragg, Civil War historian from Coastal Carolina University to be our speaker. At this time, that is scheduled for October 7. Gragg is a well-published and oft honored specialist on this subject and is also a noted speaker. I hope you will join me in welcoming him to Winthrop and learning from him. Perhaps he can tell me about my great grandfather’s North Carolina cavalry unit, which fought at the Battle of Chickamauga. My father was named for him and, as a little boy, knew him, in the late nineteenth century.

Best regards,

Jack W. Weaver
Emeritus Professor of English