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# Keywords

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Fall 2007

## Students show damaged books and materials a little TLC

In a back room, workers use scissors, brushes, adhesive, scalpels, tape and several other tools and supplies to clean, repair and restore old books.

But while it may look like a scene from CSI, it's actually the preservation department, housed in the Technical Services Department of the J.D. Williams Library.

According to Celest Parker, the preservation department supervisor, one out of every 10 books needs repairing. Due to basic wear and tear, a large number of these damaged books need pages and spines replaced. Others must be placed into pamphlet binders or pockets, boxes made, or clear covers placed over the books. Students are largely responsible for helping with those repairs, Parker said.

"Our students play a key role in preserving important documents and papers," agreed Dean of Libraries Julia Rholes. "It's a great learning experience for them since they get to see firsthand what it takes to keep these literary treasures in usable condition."

While the preservation department works hard to maintain books in the general collection, archives and special collections staff and students work just as hard to preserve the books, manuscripts, maps, photographs and other items that are housed there.

One hallmark of Archives and Special Collections is the Rowan Oak Papers, a collection of early William Faulkner manuscripts. And like most papers in this department, they need special attention and care.

"These papers consist of more than 1,800 pages written on acidic paper, which, if not cared for correctly, will deteriorate over time," said Jennifer Ford,



April Willins, a junior occupational therapy major from Tunica, rebinds a book in the preservation department at the J.D. Williams Library.

head of archives and special collections. "We also have a collection of Faulkner poetry that was saved from a fire. Much of the poetry is charred around the edges and needs to be conserved as well."


Besides the Rowan Oak Papers, the Department of Archives and Special Collections also includes the Blues Archives, the Civil Rights and Race Relations Collections and Modern Political Archives. Among its other Mississippi-related collections are the Southern Media Archive and Visual Collections, which hold the Martin Dain and J.R. Cofield Collections of Faulkner photographs, one of the largest assemblages of Faulkner images in the country.

To help preserve these collections, the department now depends on several high-tech instruments that were purchased in the past year, thanks to grant

support from the Office of the Provost.

Several data-logger machines acquired in 2006 allow staff to monitor temperature, humidity and light levels of storage spaces through computer software. Another grant awarded in January has enabled the restoration and digital copying of reel-to-reel recordings in the James O. Eastland Collection.

Additionally, Blues Archive curator Greg Johnson now uses a high-quality audio turntable to digitize old vinyl records.

"We must preserve these works, which are often irreplaceable," Rholes said. "Many of these materials are quite fragile and need special attention if we wish to have them available for future generations." 

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## Message from the Dean

Since our last issue of *Keywords*, I am happy to report that the University Libraries acquired the second half of the personal papers and manuscripts of the late Larry Brown, one of Mississippi's most significant writers. Although we now house the complete collection, we still need your financial support to help us underwrite this important acquisition.

I also want to thank the Ole Miss Parents Association and a number of private donors, whose generosity allowed us to open the first phase of the Information Commons in the J.D. Williams Library this fall. The commons area on the first floor will bring together the latest in technology in a comfortable setting that can accommodate individuals as well as groups.

Another university group helping us build a stronger library is the Greek Life Council, which made a generous donation to the Friends of the Library. This contribution has helped us purchase more than 200 new titles to add to our ever-growing collections.

Thanks to your generous support, we are building a stronger library for our students, faculty and friends.

Sincerely,  
**Julia M. Rholes**  
Dean of Libraries

## Corporate contributions are gifts that keep on giving to UM libraries

It's been 10 years since the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation seeded the E.H. Patterson Library Endowment with \$8 million, which went to support the J.D. Williams Library. The funds greatly helped enhance the collections then, and income from the endowment continues to supplement the library's serials and materials budget.


"Even now, that gift helps us immeasurably," said library Dean Julia Rholes. "Corporate gifts continue to make an impact on the University Libraries. They are the kind of gifts that keep giving."

From 1999 to 2002, the Croft Institute for International Studies gave more than \$500,000 to help the library purchase more than 10,000 titles, including many works on Europe, East Asia and Latin America and collections in Portuguese, Russian, German, Italian and French.

In 2004, a gift from Medical Marketing Economics LLC, helped fund and

support Medline via Ovid, the National Library of Medicine's online database of citations to articles from international biomedical journals covering the fields of medicine, preclinical sciences and allied health sciences.

These are significant enhancements, but, in the past 10 years, enrollment at Ole Miss has increased by more than 4,000 students. "Our enrollment has been climbing steadily and consistently for a decade, putting enormous pressure on our resources," Rholes said. "Naturally, more students mean more library patrons."

In the next 10 years, as Ole Miss grows, the library is making plans to grow right along with it. The addition of an Information Commons will provide students with 40 more computer-pod area workstations plus wireless Internet and more space for studying. Once funding is secured, plans to upgrade technology in the library will be put into place. 



In 1997, the Reynolds Foundation provided a \$16.5 million grant to the university in honor of 1955 UM alumnus E.H. 'Pat' Patterson (left). This 1998 file photo shows Patterson, who died in 2004, along with Donald E. Pray of the Reynolds Foundation, the late Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice and Chancellor Robert C. Khayat. Ten years after the initial gift, the endowment it created still supplements the library's serials and materials budget. 'It helps us immeasurably,' said library Dean Julia Rholes.



# A Legacy of Learning

## Professors bequeath books to library

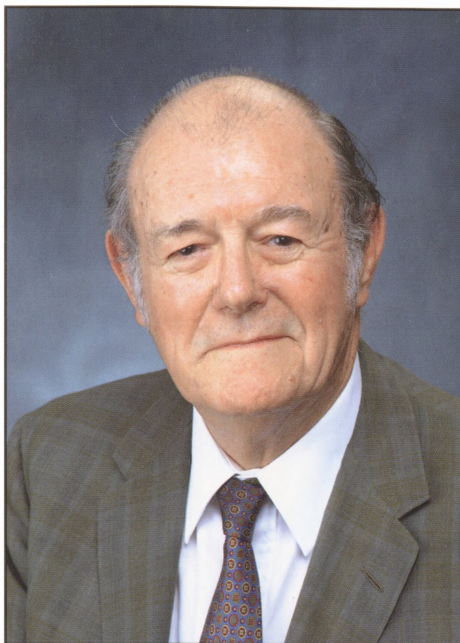
**T**hey taught different subjects and had interests ranging from race relations to UFOs to the study of international foundations. But UM professors Winthrop Jordan, Joseph Bruening and Joseph Kiger also had a lot in common—namely, a love of books and learning.

They also shared a desire to help students succeed, even after the professors died. That's why they left their personal book collections to the J.D. Williams Library.

Winthrop Jordan, a National Book Award-winning historian who wrote several influential works on American slavery and race relations, left the library his personal collection of books related to the history of the South and race relations. When he died in February 2007 at 75, Jordan was emeritus professor of history and African American studies at Ole Miss, where he taught from 1982 until his retirement in 2004.

"Through the years, no faculty person has achieved greater distinction at Ole Miss than Winthrop Jordan," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "Historians across the world are aware of his work, his colleagues respected him without reservation, and he was much admired by his students. Although we have lost him, his legacy lives on."

Rachel Smith, a third-year Ph.D.

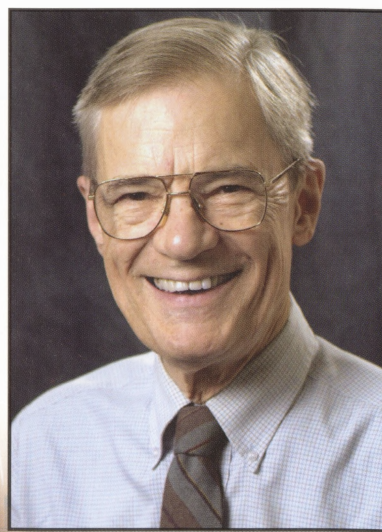


*The late Joseph Kiger chaired the Department of History at Ole Miss from 1969-74. He died in September 2006 at age 86.*

candidate and teaching assistant in the history department, benefits from that legacy. She was a student of Jordan's, enrolled in the last graduate seminar on historical methods that he taught at UM.

She is thankful for his lessons, and, even now that he is gone, she thinks it's fitting that she is still learning from him through the books he left.

*Rachel Smith, a third-year Ph.D. candidate and teaching assistant in the history department, was a student of the late Winthrop Jordan (right). 'He left several books that are crucial to my dissertation. Dr. Jordan was a wonderful teacher and is sorely missed.'*



"Dr. Jordan was a wonderful teacher and is sorely missed," Smith said. "He was very much about giving you the information and letting you figure it out for yourself. He left several books that are crucial to my dissertation, which focuses on race and the Cherokee nation in the 19th century."

Joseph Charles Kiger was a professor emeritus of history and a senior research associate at the Croft Institute for International Studies. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1960-61 and chair of the Department of History at Ole Miss from 1969-1974. He wrote several books, including *Operating Principles of Larger Foundations*, *International Encyclopedia of Foundations and Philanthropic Foundations in the Twentieth Century*. He died in September 2006 at age 86.


A historian all his life, Kiger specialized in the study of international foundations. Many of the books he left the library are on this topic.

"The international aspect of the foundation movement is unique," said librarian Royce Kurtz. "Any student focusing on this area of study would be grateful to Kiger for his gift of books."

Joseph Herbert Bruening taught at Ole Miss from 1960 to 2001, and he was a professor emeritus of sociology at UM when he died in September of 2006 at age 77. He stated

in his will that his personal book collection be left to the UM Library.

His collection includes books on parapsychology, extrasensory perception, crop circles, UFOs, mystic traditions and religions.

"It's a quite large and extensive collection of materials related to the paranormal," Kurtz said. "Any students studying in this field will have ample material to choose from in our library." 





## Rare collections show Mississippi history in words and pictures

Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon of Washington D.C., recently helped a collection of historical books on Mississippi find its way back to its home state.

The collection belonged to Dixon's grandfather, Henry Hart, a native of Winona, so Dixon thought the collection would be better off having a permanent home at the J.D. Williams Library.

"The books are primarily books on Mississippi history," Dixon said. "I felt that since they had to do with Mississippi they would be helpful to students and graduate students doing research at Ole Miss."

Dixon's ties to Mississippi and Ole Miss are strong. She grew up less than two hours away from the university, in Winona, and her father, Edward Holmes, graduated from Ole Miss in 1926 with a degree in liberal arts.

Although Dixon's grandfather attended school only through the third grade, he was a self-educated and thoughtful man, she said. His collection includes several books about the Civil War, a series of papers about the life of Jefferson Davis and an album filled with photos of people and places in Winona at the turn of the century.

"We are so grateful to the Dixon family for this generous gift," said Julia Rholes, dean of the University Libraries. "This collection provides a rich look into the history of the state of Mississippi. We are thrilled to have these rare and special books as a resource for our students."

After graduating from Winona High School in 1955, Dixon went on to Vanderbilt University and then obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1981. She served as Episcopal bishop of Washington, pro tempore, until she retired in 2002.

When she was consecrated in 1992 as suffragan bishop of Washington, D.C., she was the second woman to be elevated to the office of bishop in the Episcopal Church, and the third in the worldwide Anglican Communion.



These are just a few photos taken from a Dixon family scrapbook depicting life in Winona during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. 'I felt they would be helpful to students and graduate students doing research at Ole Miss,' said Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon, who donated the collection.



## 'Let's talk about it' series offers perspective on Jewish culture via literature

The J.D. Williams Library hosted a free five-part reading and discussion series this fall titled "Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature—Identity and Imagination."

The scholar-led discussions explored Jewish literature and culture based on five contemporary and classic books centered on the theme "Neighbors: The World Next Door."

The UM library was one of more than 250 libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series, developed by Nextbook and the American Library Association. Community partners included the Lafayette-Oxford Public Library, Square Books, Oxford Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Beth Shalom congregation in Oxford.

"We were delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that allowed participants a chance to discuss themes in Jewish literature with fellow community members," said Dean Julia Rholes. "We appreciated the help of Dr. Donald Kartiganer, a well-qualified scholar who made the discussions wonderfully enlightening and enjoyable events."

Kartiganer, UM's Howry Chair in Faulkner Studies and professor of English, is a member of the Beth Shalom congregation. Putting the discussion series in context, Kartiganer said, "Although Judaism holds a significant position in the beliefs of the Christian and Islamic religions, this has not always translated into knowledge of the specific history and culture of the Jewish people."

"The chief purpose of [this series] was to provide insight into Judaism through examination of specific texts written by authors from a variety of countries and time periods."

Amy Mark, coordinator of library instruction and associate professor, directed the project, which benefited the entire community.

"Reading and discussion series such as this stimulate public interest in the world of ideas. They are as much an opportunity for continuing education as starting points for substantive discussion, study

and programming," Mark said.

The books discussed were *A Journey to the End of the Millennium* by A.B. Yehoshua, *Red Cavalry* by Isaac Babel, *Neighbors* by Jan T. Gross, *The Assistant* by Bernard Malamud and *Mona in the Promised Land* by Gish Jen.

University partners in the series included the Croft Institute for International Studies, Department of Philosophy and Religion, and Division of Outreach and Continuing Education.

*'Although Judaism holds a significant position in the beliefs of the Christian and Islamic religions, this has not always translated into knowledge of the specific history and culture of the Jewish people.'*

Donald Kartiganer  
Professor of English



After Howry Chair of Faulkner Studies Donald Kartiganer finished a lecture on *A Journey to the End of the Millennium* by A.B. Yehoshua, attendees participated in a group discussion of the book.



## 'Continuing love' for Mississippi prompts author to donate work

Mississippi has a tradition of producing fine writers, and one of its native sons recently donated his collection of literary materials to the J.D. Williams Library.

Jack Butler, a native of Alligator in Bolivar County, has given more than five boxes of his manuscripts, letters and photos to be housed in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, said Jennifer Ford, who heads the department.

"I wanted, if possible, to donate my papers to my home state out of a continuing love for that state," Butler said. "Ole Miss showed the most interest and follow-through of any of the schools I got in touch with, and I liked Jennifer Ford's knowledge and enthusiasm."

"The Butler collection is an extraordinary gift," Ford said. "It reveals the depth of his creative process and talent over the course of several years. This perspective will offer our patrons an even better understanding of what it means to be an author. I feel that this archive greatly enhances our tradition of collecting the work of talented literary Mississippians."

The library also houses the collections of Mississippi writers William Faulkner, Willie Morris, Larry Brown and Barry Hannah, among others, including Butler's friend John Freeman. Freeman, a Jackson native who has published three books and numerous poems, has been instrumental in connecting Ford with other writers, including Butler.

"The collection opportunity offers a writer a level of permanence that mere book publication does not, and to have many of the best writers of the state together in one collection appealed to me," Freeman said. "I am rather proud of the fact that Jack's work is included in the collection and is being featured. I consider Jack to be easily the best poet Mississippi has ever produced, and I am honored to have my name connected with his."




Jack Butler

Butler has published eight books, including four novels. His books have been printed in 16 editions, including one translation in Japanese. He has written nearly 200 poems, many of which have appeared in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *Poetry*. He has won a number of prizes and awards, and his third novel, *Living in Little Rock with Miss Little Rock* (1993), was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and a PEN/Faulkner Award.

Born in 1944, Butler moved around Mississippi as a child, the son of a Baptist minister. He graduated from Clinton High School, then earned bachelor's degrees in English and mathematics from Central Missouri State College, followed by an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arkansas.

Butler said that at age 16 he was introduced to Shakespeare and "realized immediately" that he wanted to be a writer. When asked how other writers have influenced his style, he said, "influence is a vexed notion."

"Shakespeare taught me what writing is," Butler said. "As an adult, I have greatly enjoyed Faulkner, Fitzgerald, Yeats, Dickens, O'Connor, Frost, Wilbur and hundreds of others, although I have not imitated any of them."

Butler, a resident of Arizona, is at work on his fifth novel, *The Enlightenment of Elijah Lee Roswell*. He said the story "features a character from Alligator, a sharecropper's boy who becomes a bank robber during the 1950s." 



## Generous alum is the latest in a long line of library lovers

Longtime Oxford resident Vasser Bishop was born to love Ole Miss. Her father, David Bishop, chaired the Department of English and taught for many years—in fact, Bishop Hall bears his name. Her maternal grandfather, Thomas Somerville, served as professor and dean of the law school, and Somerville dormitory was named for him. Naturally, she and her two younger sisters attended the university.

While much has changed on the campus that Vasser Bishop came to know and love as a child, much remains the same. For example, the library building may not be recognizable as the same structure that she frequented as a student, but she is quite certain that its role in the lives of students and faculty is more important than ever.

“A library is an absolutely essential


part of a university,” Bishop said. “My father, of course, handed this notion down to me, but I think it just should be widely understood that books and everything else that a library has to offer complement the academic environment in a way that nothing else can.”

This is the reason Bishop has devoted time and financial support to the J.D. Williams Library, beginning many years ago. A founding member of the Julia H. Wilcox Library Society, she is also a longtime member of the Friends of the Library support group.

“Vasser Bishop has consistently shown herself to be a very loyal friend of the library and of the university,” said Dean of University Libraries Julia Rholes. “It is due to the kindness and generosity of people such as Vasser that we are able to continue with our mission.”

Comfortable in the two-story home that once belonged to her Somerville grandparents, Bishop is surrounded with books, including some that belonged to her father and her grandparents.

And, yes, she still enjoys reading. “I recently picked up Jane Austen’s book, *Persuasion*, which I have read before but still find entertaining,” she said. “I’m always reading something; sometimes I’ll have several books going at the same time.”

The beauty of Bishop’s library collection in her home is that it meets her needs at this stage of her life. Likewise, thoughtful and generous supporters like Vasser Bishop ensure that the J.D. Williams Library continues to meet the needs of students, faculty, staff and community members. 

## UM marks decade of progress

Under the leadership of Chancellor Robert Khayat since 1995, The University of Mississippi has seen unprecedented progress, from strengthened academic programs to renovated buildings and record enrollment.

Many alumni and friends joined Chancellor Khayat and the faculty and staff to successfully position Ole Miss as a great American public university.

In January 2005—with more than a decade of steady growth and progress—officials embarked on a \$200 million private fundraising initiative entitled “MomentUM: A Campaign for The University of Mississippi.” Alumni Sam and Mary Haskell, Mike Glenn and Deuce McAllister serve as national co-chairs of the campaign, which concludes in December 2008.

“We are calling this the MomentUM Campaign because, in the last decade, Ole Miss has grown dramatically by every measure—enrollment, endowment, facilities, programs and reputation,” said Gloria Kellum, vice chancellor for university relations. “Alumni, friends, facul-


ty and staff are largely responsible, and they do it out of a love for Ole Miss. Their love is translated into action in a thousand ways every day, from preserving campus landmarks to providing scholarships for the next generation.”

During its silent phase, which ended

**MOMENTUM**  
A CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Oct. 19 with a public kickoff, the campaign raised approximately \$150 million of a \$200 million goal. The public phase offers giving opportunities for many others who care about Ole Miss and want to keep the momentum going so this beautiful and historic institution can last and serve those who are to follow.


“These loving acts make the difference between a good and a great university,” Kellum said.

To learn about giving opportunities to the J.D. Williams Library, visit [www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\\_library](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library) and click on “Giving to the Libraries.” You can also contact Michael Upton, development associate, at 662-915-3027 or [mupton@olemiss.edu](mailto:mupton@olemiss.edu). 

## 1848 Society provides conduit for bequests

Since 1848, planned and deferred gifts have been a major source of support for The University of Mississippi. Such gifts offer donors the unique opportunity to utilize cumulative resources to contribute “the gift of a lifetime.”

In 1998, the UM Foundation established the 1848 Society to recognize these generous donors who so thoughtfully provide for the university. Anyone who has an estate gift planned for Ole Miss or who has completed a life income trust, retained life estate gift or other charitable trust plan is eligible for membership. If you have already named the J.D. Williams Library in your estate plan, please notify Dean Julia Rholes at 662-915-7093 or [jrholes@olemiss.edu](mailto:jrholes@olemiss.edu) so that your name can be added to the 1848 Society membership list.

For more information on joining the 1848 Society, contact The University of Mississippi Foundation at 800-340-9542 or 662-915-5944. You also can e-mail [umf@olemiss.edu](mailto:umf@olemiss.edu) and visit [www.umf.olemiss.edu/home](http://www.umf.olemiss.edu/home). 





## Library development officer: the top 5 things I won't do

**L**ike every academic unit on campus, the University Libraries depend on the support of alumni and friends like you. My job is to go out and find that support.

Unfortunately, not everyone knows what to expect when I call to arrange a meeting. So here's my very own "Top 5" things that I will NOT do when calling to set up a visit with you! Counting down . . .

**5.** I won't make broad hints about sending "cousin" Vinnie, who doesn't make such a good first impression when asking for money.

**4.** I won't talk so fast that you can't get a word in edgewise to say that you're busy and would like me to call at a more convenient time.

**3.** I won't use the library's excellent research capabilities to dig up dirt on you to blackmail you into a larger donation.

**2.** I won't blather on and on about dead authors and archaic literature until you finally surrender a gift just to make me stop talking.

And, the No. 1 thing I won't do (drum roll, please) . . .

**1.** I won't try to cajole, bully, deceive or otherwise force you to give more to the libraries than you are comfortable in giving.

Now that we've cleared that up, let's talk about why I do call. It's really very simple: I want to meet you, let you meet me, and have a conversation.

Why? First, I want to thank you personally for your contributions. There are many places you could spend or give your money, and you have chosen to give part of it to the University Libraries. We don't take that lightly. Your gift is both a financial and emotional investment, and I want to tell you how much we appreciate YOU as a donor.

Secondly, I want to bring you up to date about the libraries and how your money will be used. There is so much for you to be proud of, and I want you to know about it.

As you learn more about our vital role in support of all academic programs, scholarship and research (which means that your gifts to the libraries have maximum impact), you may choose to increase your donations. Many people



Michael Upton

have made that choice, and I'm here to answer questions and facilitate those gifts. But remember, decisions about the amount and frequency of giving are yours to make—and they always will be.

And, for the record, I don't have a cousin Vinnie. But my mom makes a mean pitcher of sweet tea! ☕



The University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. 3702B/10-07

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