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# Keywords

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Fall 2009

## Still Got the Blues

*World-renowned Blues Archive celebrates 25 years*

by Elaine Pugh

**W**hen The University of Mississippi opened its Blues Archive to the public in 1984, it was touted as on its way to becoming “the finest of its kind in the world.”

Those familiar with the many treasures sheltered in the archive say it’s a dream come true. “With the exception of the Library of Congress, I know of

*‘With the exception of the Library of Congress, I know of no other such archive ... that surpasses it. Every year, fans from around the world visit...’*

—Greg Johnson

no other such archive in the world that surpasses it,” said Greg Johnson, blues curator and associate professor in the J.D. Williams Library. “Every year, fans from around the world visit to examine commercially unavailable audio and video recordings of their favorite blues performers.”

Johnson is curator of “Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition,” celebrating the archive’s 25th year. Scheduled for a yearlong run, the exhibition is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Visitors can sign out portable audio/video players on-site to hear musical selections and view interviews with the

featured artists as they tour the exhibition. The elaborate display fills 18 cases in the Faulkner Room and includes rare and historically significant holdings from many of the archive’s audio, visual and print collections. Some of the material will be rotated throughout the year.

The material highlights artists such as B.B. King, Robert Johnson, The Red Tops and James “Son” Thomas, as well as blues collectors/authors including Sheldon Harris, Kenneth Goldstein and Gayle Dean Wardlow.

Items include original record contracts for Elmore James and Sonny Boy Williamson, rare sound recordings by Robert Johnson and Charlie Patton, artwork by Lightnin’ Hopkins and records from the personal record collection of world-renowned blues icon B.B. King.

The exhibition also examines the history of the Blues Archive and follows *Living Blues* magazine from its 1970 origins in Chicago to its present home in UM’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture, where the Blues Archive began as the brainchild of the center’s first director, William Ferris.



Founded by the center, the archive resided with the music library in Farley Hall for nearly two decades before merging with the library in 2002. It comprises more than 60,000 audio recordings, ranging from wax cylinders to compact discs; more than 20,000 photo-

*Continued on Page 2*

### Inside

*B.B. King bust donated ..... 3*

*Professor’s dedication to library continues through estate ... 4*

*Treasure trove of Anderson materials donated ..... 5*

*Online answers 24/7 ..... 2*

*Archives fascinate visiting students ..... 6*

*Ongoing exhibits ..... 7*

*Library wish list ..... 8*

## Still Got the Blues

continued from Page 1


graphs; at least 7,000 books, magazines and newsletters; 900 video recordings; and many collections of manuscripts, posters and ephemera.

Ted Ownby, CSSC director, sees the archive as an important part of Southern culture and in line with the center's mission.

"Through his own work and his encouragement of *Living Blues* magazine and the archive, William Ferris worked to establish The University of Mississippi as a place to study the blues," Ownby said. "Today, the Blues Archive, along with 'Highway 61' radio show and the publication of *Living*

*Blues*, gives the university a central role in documenting and studying the blues."

The archive continues to expand with the donation of new collections, such as the recently acquired Sid Graves Collection of materials related to the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale and the David Hinckley Collection of 300 78-rpm records.

"This exhibition is a tribute to all those who have helped further the field of blues scholarship at The University of Mississippi through teaching, writing and producing films and radio programs," Johnson said. 

### Message from the Dean

I would like to welcome our new chancellor, Dr. Dan Jones, and his lovely wife, Lydia. Dr. Jones has already visited the University Libraries a couple of times, and we're all looking forward to working with him. We're also looking for ways to work more closely with our sister library at the Medical Center in Jackson, where Dr. Jones served as the vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. Today, with the difficult economic climate, libraries must collaborate and cooperate as much as possible. Our library already participates in a number of consortia that allow us to acquire a number of electronic resources and journals which we could not afford otherwise.

This year, we're celebrating the 25th anniversary of our fabulous blues collection. The most visible aspect of our celebration is a yearlong exhibit in our Department of Archives and Special Collections. This wonderful exhibit showcases recordings, books, posters and fascinating memorabilia from the collection, including a number of items from B.B. King's personal collection which he donated a number of years ago. The most recent donation to the collection is a beautiful sculpture of B.B. King by noted sculptor, Bill Beckwith. Visitors will not only be able to view the sculpture but also to experience some of the actual music in the collection courtesy of MP3 players that will be available to exhibit visitors. Greg Johnson, our multitalented blues curator, is responsible for this truly amazing exhibit. We hope you will come and enjoy this wonderful exhibit and the other opportunities our libraries provide.

Sincerely,

Julia Rhoads  
Dean of University Libraries

## Tutorials provide answers 24/7

Students' questions don't always come up during normal business hours. With new online tutorials offered by the J.D. Williams Library, students can get the answers they need regardless of the time of day.

"We thought online tutorials would be good for students. We wanted to make it as interactive as possible and make them small and specific," said Amy E. Mark, coordinator for instruction and associate professor of library science.


Topics include how to choose a topic for a research paper, how to use the "Find It" button and how to use the citation and style manuals. There are also options for faculty, including how to plan a session and how to link to an article using PURLs.

"They are all practical. It's how to use what the libraries have in the most efficient way possible," Mark said. "The tutorials show how to use



research skills to answer a question. That way a student can graduate not just knowing how to write a paper but also knowing when and where to ask for help."

Undergraduates, graduates and nontraditional learners can all benefit from being able to access the tutorials at any time of day, from any location.

To access the short Flash videos, which are 100 percent ADA compliant, go to [www.olemiss.edu/depts/general\\_library/instruction](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/instruction). 

## Plagiarism prevention focus of online movie

The Information Literacy Committee has developed an Online Plagiarism Tutorial which consists of a short movie highlighting different forms of plagiarism, the consequences of plagiarism and different methods that students utilize to ensure their work is properly sourced and cited. The movie is followed by a quiz to make sure students have a good understanding of plagiarism before they begin their studies.



# Artist donates B.B. King bust to archive

by Elaine Pugh

A bust of world-renowned blues icon B.B. King has been donated to UM's Blues Archive by its creator, award-winning artist William Beckwith of Taylor.

The gift arrived in time for the Sept. 22 formal opening of "Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition," a year-long celebration of the archive's 25 years of welcoming visitors from around the world.

The bust is a welcome addition to the archive's B.B. King Collection, said Greg Johnson, blues curator and associate professor in the J.D. Williams Library.

"The timing couldn't have been more perfect," Johnson said. "It is highly appropriate for the bust to be displayed in an exhibit that celebrates the Blues Archive, which really came to prominence with the donation of B.B. King's personal record collection over a quarter-century ago."

Beckwith said he donated the bust out of admiration for King and to pay tribute to him for donating his record collection to the Blues Archive. After learning that the bust is to be permanently displayed in the Faulkner Room in close proximity to a bust of William Faulkner by artist Leon Koury, Beckwith said he couldn't be more pleased.

"Leon Koury was like a father to me,




Greg Johnson (left), curator of The University of Mississippi's Blues Archive, and sculptor William Beckwith admire a bust of legendary bluesman B.B. King that Beckwith recently donated to the archive.

and I'm proud to be in the same room with him." Beckwith said. The two first met when Beckwith was 14 years old, and Koury became his longtime mentor.

Beckwith has produced public and private bronzes for more than 30 years. He is represented in public and private collections nationwide. His commissioned work includes "B.B. King," city of Indianola; "Flag Bearer, Mississippi 11th," Gettysburg National Military Park; and "William Faulkner," Oxford City Hall.

Beckwith's numerous awards and honors include winner of the statewide Governor's Award of Excellence in the Arts in 2001. His exhibition venues have included Splashlight Studios and Frank Marino Gallery in New York City, National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., Louisiana World's Fair in New Orleans and Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson.

Originally from Greenville, Beckwith works out of his studio in Taylor. He also is an adjunct assistant professor of art at Ole Miss. 

## Fall Family Weekend

Parents and students tour library and blues exhibit



# Estate of veteran English professor enhances 'heart' of the university

by Tina Hahn and Elaine Pugh



**A** library is the absolute heart of a university.”

That favored sentiment was often delivered by Charles E. Noyes, whose passion for teaching changed the lives of countless University of Mississippi students and whose passion for learning will impact generations to come.

A \$128,000 gift from the estate of the late professor emeritus of English is designated for the Charles E. Noyes Library Endowment, which was created in 1991 by two alumni. The bequest adds to the legacy of the UM benefactor, who already had given more than \$266,000 during his lifetime to strengthen the University Libraries and other academic and cultural areas on campus.

In addition, after retiring in 1982 and until his death in 2008, Noyes focused his energies on building private support for the libraries through the Friends of the Library organization. Since Noyes' death, those inspired by his dedication have given the University Libraries 200 gifts totaling \$21,000 in his name. Per Noyes' wishes, his personal book collection also was donated to the J.D. Williams Library, where a graduate reading room was named in his honor.

“Like any professor, my father had a great love of books, and reading had been a favorite pastime since he was a young child,” said Helen Noyes Linzey of Florence, Ala., the executor of the estate. “He had talked about an estate gift to the library for about 20 years. Although he recognized that technology has greatly changed libraries, he hoped books would continue to be enjoyed and treasured.

“My father and I definitely shared a love of reading,” said Linzey. “Throughout my childhood, I visited the public library in Oxford regularly. Then as an Ole Miss student, I studied in the Williams Library. I grew up believing libraries were sacred places.”

Dean of Libraries Julia Rholes said, “Dr. Noyes helped us acquire thousands

UM freshmen.

“Dr. Noyes was a fantastic English professor,” said David Arnold, a retired senior vice president of the Mississippi Chemical Corp. “He made literature come alive. He was an avid reader who could convey his knowledge in an incredible way to a whole classroom of students. When my wife and I saw him on our visits to campus through the years and learned of his support of the library, we knew this would be a great way to honor his influence and support the university.”

Noyes—who was born in Natchez, Miss., and grew up in Memphis—earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Missouri and a doctorate from the University of Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-46 and first taught at the universities of Missouri and Tennessee.

Noyes joined UM in 1953 as a member of the English faculty, specializing in Restoration and 18th century English literature. He co-authored a crucial biography of Christopher Smart, an 18th century poet, and published articles on Samuel Johnson, James Boswell and David Hume. At UM, Noyes served as provost, acting vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor and director of the summer session.

Noyes is survived by Linzey and a son, James C. Noyes of Nashville, as well as nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The professor was preceded in death by his wife, Ruthie Marie Smith Noyes, and a daughter, Marie Noyes Hartwick.

For more information on making a gift to the Charles E. Noyes Library Endowment Fund, contact Michael Upton, UM Foundation, michael@umfoundation.com.

*‘My father and I definitely shared a love of reading. Throughout my childhood, I visited the public library in Oxford regularly.’*

—Helen Noyes Linzey

of additional books for the University Libraries through his years of involvement with Friends of the Library. Because of this generous estate gift and the many memorials paying tribute to his life, thousands more will be added to our collections. It's difficult to adequately describe the far-reaching implications of his influence on the University Libraries. He will be missed greatly for his tremendous work and for his wonderful wit and humanity.”

David and Barbara Arnold of Yazoo City first created the Noyes Library Endowment Fund, and, at the same time, contributed to the John Pilkington Library Endowment. The Arnolds said they wanted to honor the English professors who had impacted their lives as

# Researchers donate treasure trove of materials related to life and work of writer and naturalist



Researchers Maria Estrella Iglesias and Christopher Maurer

In 1996, Christopher Maurer and María Estrella Iglesias decided to write about the life and works of Mississippi native Walter Anderson, a writer and naturalist. The pair took many trips to Ocean Springs and began gathering materials from Anderson's family, focusing on Shearwater Pottery, the family business. All of the Andersons were immersed in Shearwater, including Annette McConnell Anderson providing the artistic impetus, George Walter Anderson providing the business expertise and their three sons, Peter, Walter and Mac.

During their expeditions, Maurer and Iglesias found a treasure trove of information in the Shearwater Pottery showroom, including two wooden filing cabinets that were crammed with correspondence and business records dat-

ing back to the 1920s.

"Marjorie Ashley—Peter's daughter and Shearwater's business manager—allowed me to go through those cabinets folder by precious folder and blow the dust off account books, albums, and photos no one had looked at in decades," Maurer said.

All of the research paid off in two books. The first, *Dreaming in Clay on the Coast of Mississippi: Love and Art at Shearwater*, written by Maurer and Iglesias, was published by Doubleday in 2000; a second edition is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi. Maurer's second book, *Fortune's Favorite Child: The Uneasy Life of Walter Anderson*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2003.

Tragedy occurred in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Most of the buildings at Shearwater were swept away, and many of the original documents were damaged, disfigured or destroyed.

Maurer and Iglesias realized they probably had the only copies of some of the writing and graphic work.

While attending The University of Mississippi's Conference for the Book in 2009, which was devoted to Walter Anderson, Maurer decided that UM's Archives and Special Collections would be the proper place for those critical copies and


for all the other information he had gathered over the years about Shearwater and Walter Anderson.

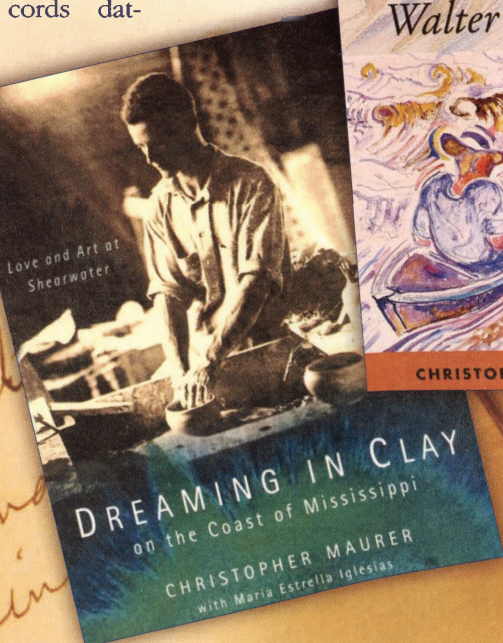
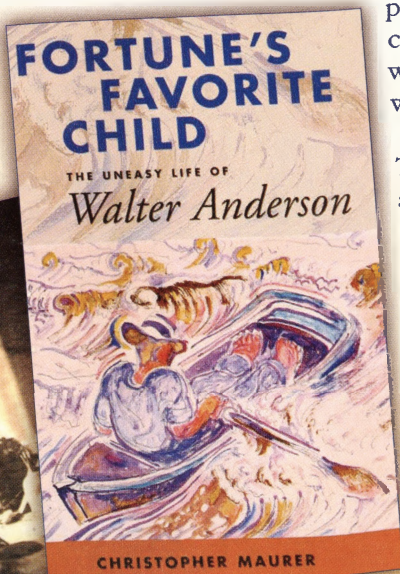
"We hope that the collection will grow; that it will prove useful to other writers; and that their encounters with the pottery, the painter and with Anderson's past and present will be as intense and as fruitful as ours," Maurer said.

*'We hope that the collection will grow; that it will prove useful to other writers....'*

—Christopher Maurer

The J.D. Williams Library is aware of the significance of the historical data they have received.

"This collection is all the more valuable as it records wonderful research materials from the Anderson family archive, many of which were later damaged or lost in Hurricane Katrina," said Jennifer Ford, head of Archives and Special Collections. "The library is indebted to Christopher Maurer and María E. Iglesias for their dedicated work and generosity. This collection will provide a valuable research resource for years to come." 



# Students find archives fascinating

by Rebecca Lauck Cleary

Located on the third floor of the J.D. Williams Library, the Department of Archives and Special Collections houses important collections of Mississippiana. Since 1975, the primary purpose has been to acquire, conserve and make accessible rare books, manuscripts, maps, visual and audio materials, and ephemera related to The University of Mississippi, the state of Mississippi, and the blues.



William Faulkner's Nobel Prize is among the materials visitors can view in the Department of Archives and Special Collections.

These materials draw a variety of visitors to the department, including a group of 50 second-graders from Pontotoc who came for a tour this fall.

"Leigh McWhite showed them the Walter Anderson exhibit and I talked to them about homemade musical instruments, including a homemade banjo," said Greg Johnson, associate professor and curator of the Blues Archive. "They were very excited and asked all kinds of interesting questions that I don't normally get asked, such as how many notes can I play in an hour? The best questions we get are from elementary and middle-school classes, or elderhostel groups."

Johnson said fourth-graders also come by every year to see Faulkner's Nobel Prize, and groups of high-school or college students often come to the library in the spring.

"Some of them do an alternative spring break trip, such as a civil rights tour or Faulkner or blues research.

They will work in the archives to help with their research back home."

But the majority of the more than 100 presentations Johnson has made about the blues are for classes on campus.

"An English professor might come through, and we'll pull items related to their course and show the students how they can use our resources," Johnson said. "We show students in the 300- or 400- level classes how to use archival resources for their research."

Joan Wylie Hall, lecturer in English, said she can't say enough about the value of having her classes visit Special Collections.


Hall said students have been "attentive, enthusiastic and amazed by the wealth of our holdings. Most of them pause by the Faulkner case to admire the Nobel Prize

medal, but all kinds of other treasures catch their eyes, from the current Walter Anderson exhibit in the hallway to the movie posters in the exhibit room.

"Some of this semester's students actually plan to return on their own to look at the anniversary blues exhibit Greg Johnson described on our recent tour," she said.

On a trip with her ENGL 368 this summer, Jennifer Ford and Johnson gave a tour to Southern literature students.

"They pulled treasures from the collection, including one of Faulkner's early hand-lettered books and the scrapbook from Eudora Welty's childhood friend. Greg even played a one-string guitar for us to illustrate the power of the diddley bow," said Hall.

The Department of Archives and Special Collections is open to visitors during regular hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on selected university holidays. 

## Students in Joan Wylie Hall's Women in the South and American Literature classes had this to say about their experiences in Special Collections:

"Gregory Johnson taught us about the Blues Archive....

He let us listen to music and played the diddly bow live....

Then he told us about Howard Odom and his music collection in 1907....

Just listening and learning about some of that folk music felt like heaven."

*Beth Ziegenhorn*

"The University of Mississippi is the state's best metaphor for Old South conservatism yielding to the progressive evolution of the New South. The campus feature that greatly captures this sense of shameful memories mixed with a progressive vision for the future, even more than the statue of James Meredith, is the Blues Archive in the J.D. Williams Library Special Collections."

*Bobby Smith*

"When I entered the main room on the top floor, my breath was taken away at the sheer amount of culture and history held in just one place. Home to an enormous William Faulkner collection, among other literary jewels, it actually was not the gleaming Nobel Prize in literature that took my attention, but instead the blues artifacts, posters and books that filled the room."

*Hannah Parish*

## Baxter Room renovations planned

Just two years after he was elected student body president at Ole Miss, 1st Lt. Hermann Baxter died for his country near the town of Frelenberg, Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, and was one of many World War II soldiers who never made it back home.

It is this young man who is memorialized in the Baxter Room in the J.D. Williams Library, a popular study area for students. Hermann Baxter will always be remembered at Ole Miss thanks to a gift from his brother, Lionel Baxter Sr., of Jacksonville, Fla., who created an endowment in 1985 to benefit the library.

This fall, thanks to the endowment, the Baxter Room is getting a facelift that will make it an even more pleasant space for students looking for a quiet place to hit the books.

"This is one of the quieter places to study, and it has a lot of natural light," said library Operations Manager Stan Whitehorn. "It's much busier than ever,

and students make heavy use of the computers and wireless access."

Whitehorn said renovations to the room include opening up the space by consolidating periodicals and replacing tall shelves with ones that are shorter. In addition, 20 new tables, 80 chairs, 10 overstuffed chairs and 10 new computers will be added.

"It's going to be comfortable, cozy and nice," he said.


Also in the room is a display case that contains the American flag that was draped on Hermann Baxter's casket as well as photos of the young man.

"The Baxter Family is proud to help support The University of Mississippi and its library system," said John Baxter (BA 95), grandson of Lionel Baxter. "We hope this room benefits the university, but, more importantly, that it adds value to the students of Ole Miss and assists them with advancing their education."

Lionel Baxter's original gift included 1,000 shares of stock valued at more



The display case in the Baxter Room contains the American flag that was draped on Hermann Baxter's casket as well as photos of the young man.

than \$93,000, as well as a collection of historical items, information about the Baxter family, a bust of Hermann Baxter sculpted by Robert Mayer and a commemorative plaque. The bust and plaque are located in the lobby of Baxter Hall, home to the university's Office of Telecommunications, which serves as another campus memorial to the young man who showed so much promise. 

### Ongoing Exhibits

*Faulkner Room, J.D. Williams Library through August 2010*

"Still Got the Blues: A Silver Anniversary Exhibition"

*Second Floor, J.D. Williams Library through fall 2009*

"Banned Books Week 2009"

"Accounting Collection"

*Third Floor, J.D. Williams Library through fall 2009*

"Selections from the Women's Book Club of Oxford Collection"

"Vintage Holiday Postcards from the Ann Rayburn Collection"

"Gulf Islands National Seashore: Tracing Its Creation"

"The Blues in Poetry & Fiction"

"Blues Bass"

"Highlights from the Sheldon Harris Blues, Jazz, and Black Music Culture"

"UM and Integration"

*Third Floor, J.D. Williams Library through January 2010*

"Walter Anderson and World Literature"



## Gifts of all sizes benefit libraries



The growing and increasing strength of private support for the University Libraries is making a real difference in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Gifts support a wide range of areas that include books, electronic resources, technology upgrades and increased learning opportunities. Often, people may think if they are not making a large gift, they are not making much of a difference. However, the libraries can benefit from gifts of all sizes. To

demonstrate this, we are debuting a new feature in *Keywords* called the Libraries Wish List on page eight. I hope you will take a moment to look at this and see the impact that gifts of varying sizes can make. If you are interested in supporting one of these projects, or are interested in learning about others, please contact me at 662-915-3027 or [mupton@olemiss.edu](mailto:mupton@olemiss.edu).

Sincerely,

Michael Upton  
Associate Director of Development





## Libraries Wish List

### Information Commons

#### *Samsung 40-inch 1080p LCD TVs*

The Information Commons currently has three highly used rooms where students can collaborate on group projects. Using large-screen TVs, groups of students can work together on spreadsheets, presentations and other documents. The library already has the space and computers to outfit three more rooms; only the TVs are lacking. The acquisition of three more large LCD TVs would allow the library to double the number of group collaboration rooms available. Cost: \$850 each

### J.D. Williams Library

#### *America's Historical Newspapers: Mississippi Historical State Package, 1818-1922*

This fully searchable digital collection, featuring 12 Mississippi newspapers, provides an unparalleled record of the topics, people, issues and events that shaped Mississippi during this time period. Access to this collection would provide students and researchers with greater primary source material when studying the history of our state. Cost: \$8,600

### Department of Archives and Special Collections

#### *Sony UMatc Player and Beta Player*

The archives contains a number of videotapes in the Beta and Umatic formats. These machines will allow researchers to have access to the tapes and will also enable archivists to convert them for preservation purposes. Cost: \$100 each

