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Keywords

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Spring 2009

Professor emeritus honored for cultivating friends, funds

John Pilkington's teaching career at The University of Mississippi spanned more than three decades and influenced hundreds of students. Since his retirement in 1985, he has continued his early mission to help make the University Libraries the best that they can be.

Pilkington, distinguished professor emeritus of English, has raised friends and funds through the Friends of the Library support group and spent many hours matching resources with books and other needs. His work has been priceless, said Dean of Libraries Julia Rhoads.

"Dr. Pilkington has patiently carried out his desire to help provide a better library for Ole Miss students and faculty," she said. "Through his leadership and personal example working with Friends of the Library, the addition of so many books has remarkably enriched our collections."

Rhoads and several of Pilkington's longtime friends spearheaded efforts to honor him with a room in his name. A dedication ceremony for the John Pilkington Study Room was held April 25. The room is located on the second floor of the library near the main elevators. Pilkington's family and many friends attended the public event.



HARRY BRISCOE

Professor Emeritus John Pilkington speaks during the dedication of a study room that has been named for him.

When asked how he feels about being so honored, Pilkington said, "I'm delighted. It was a great surprise but a very pleasant one."

He went on to explain why he feels so strongly about the quality of university libraries.

"The university exists for the advancement of learning," Pilkington said. "The university library is the most permanent part of the learning process, and the library is the central resource that makes teaching, research and service to the

community possible."

When Pilkington joined the Ole Miss faculty soon after completing his master's and doctoral degrees at Harvard University, he was alarmed at the state of the UM library.

"When I came here in 1952, I came directly from working at Widener Library at Harvard. It was a glorious place because you were terribly surprised if you couldn't find your book. I got here, and you were surprised if you did find your book."

Pilkington wasted no time in seeking ways to remedy the situation. "I ran down second-hand catalogs to find books to fill out my list of books that I thought the library needed. The university had very little money. Funds to purchase books were allotted to departments, and some didn't use the allotment, so I asked for and was given permission to use the funds to buy books, and that's how it started."

"As a faculty member, John Pilkington was loved by his students and admired by his colleagues," Chancellor Robert Khayat said. "He has worked tirelessly to attract support that would assure the continued strength of our library. He and his wife, Lolly, are revered, respected and loved by the Ole Miss community."

The senior professor in American literature in the Department of English

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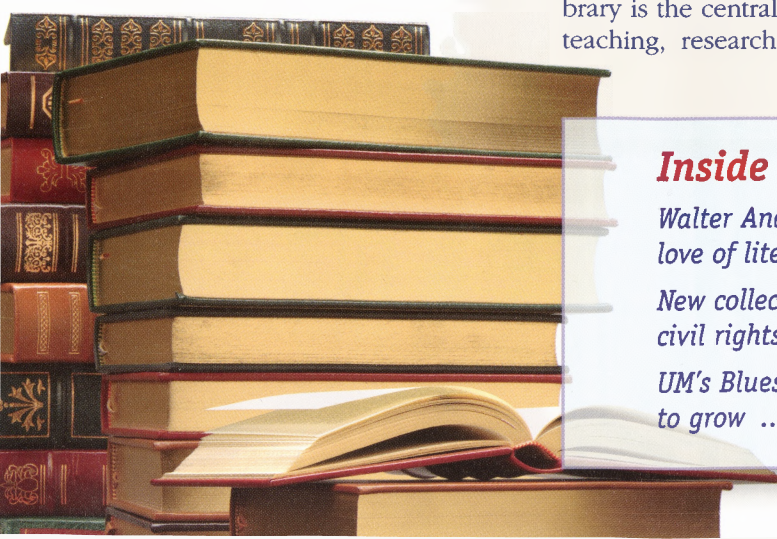
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The World of Walter Anderson

Literature, art meet in exhibit

Artwork by renowned painter, writer and naturalist Walter Inglis Anderson is on exhibit at the J.D. Williams Library through January 2010.

The 60-piece display, "Walter Anderson and World Literature," is hosted by the Department of Archives and Special Collections on the library's third floor.

It features line drawings, watercolors and panels inspired by great works of literature such as *Don Quixote*, *The Iliad*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Magic Carpet*. Block prints from Anderson's book *An Alphabet*—created for his own children—stretch around the exhibit walls.

"There are many artists who explored a story but few who fused with it," said Patricia Pinson, curator of exhibitions at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs. "The book to Anderson was a way of life, part of the quest to find realization and meaning. It was the distillation of the timeless epics that gave him the grasp of the significance of the moment. Great books and great art are about insight, and Anderson gives us insight into both."

A voracious reader, Anderson created nearly 10,000 pen-and-ink drawings to illustrate page after page of classic books as he read them.

"It's exciting for the library to show-

case this wonderful exhibit of work by Walter Anderson," said Jennifer Ford, head of the Department Archives and Special Collections. "His genius can be clearly seen, as well as his love for literature. We hope that our patrons will be able to get a glimpse into his world."

While Anderson's "world" stretched from his home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to faraway places such as China and South America, he found solace in being alone, often immersed in the imaginary world of books.

"Daddy was essentially on a quest—he was pursuing the Holy Grail," said John Anderson, his son and curator of the library exhibit.

Sponsored in conjunction with the 16th annual Oxford Conference for the Book, the exhibit was the focus of the conference's opening session March 26. Following its close at the library in January 2010, the exhibit is expected to travel to other libraries, cultural centers and schools for years to come.

"This exhibit might [create] little explosions if allowed to be shown in schools where children can look at the work and say, 'Wait a minute, I see something another way,'" John Anderson said.

A subject guide for the exhibit is available at apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject_guide/anderson/intro.

Message from the Dean

I would like to express appreciation for two great leaders who have given a great deal to The University of Mississippi and to our University Libraries: Dr. John Pilkington and Chancellor Robert C. Khayat.

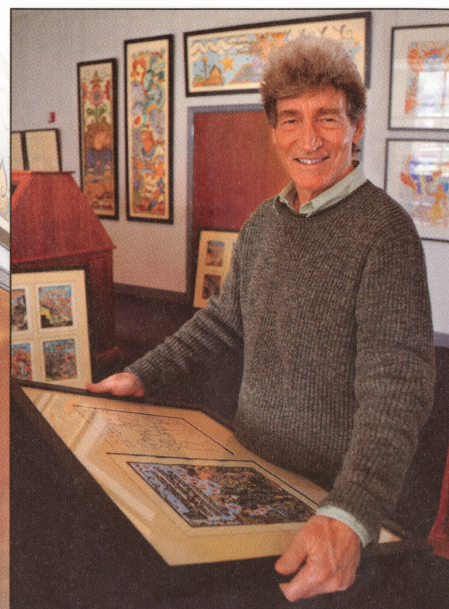
We have just honored Dr. John Pilkington with a special room in J.D. Williams Library. As the long-time president of the Friends of the Libraries, he has been a steadfast and vocal proponent of the libraries. He not only has given money generously over many years but also, more importantly, has given his time. He has been very involved with the leadership of the Friends and with the selection of the books that the Friends acquire for the libraries. Working closely with the library staff, he has been committed to ensuring that the library collections are strong. We have added thousands of books in all subject areas because of Dr. Pilkington and the Friends.

Chancellor Robert Khayat will retire at the end of June. Like Dr. Pilkington, he has been deeply committed to our libraries. A vocal supporter, Chancellor Khayat has raised much-needed funds, which have helped in so many ways. We have added equipment and furniture in recent years, along with both print and full-text collections. Students and faculty today have a beautiful, comfortable library with rich collections thanks to Chancellor Khayat.

I urge readers to honor these two great leaders by making contributions to the Friends of the Libraries in honor of Dr. Pilkington or to the Robert C. Khayat Legacy Fund in honor of the chancellor.

Sincerely,

Julia Rholes
Dean of University Libraries

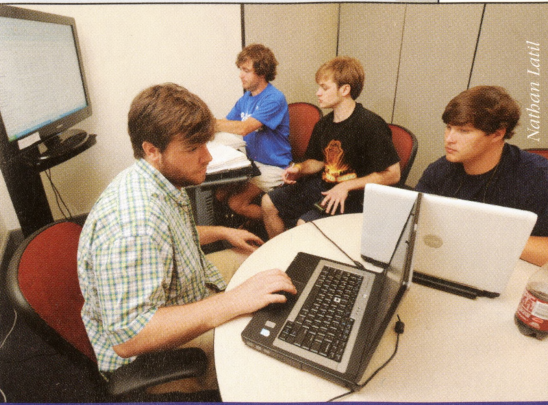


Robert Jordan

John Anderson, son of artist Walter Anderson, is curator of the exhibit currently on display at the library.

Space keeps library buzzing

by Sarah Cure



UM's new Information Commons, which combines collaborative work spaces, staff support and technology, reflects a growing trend among academic libraries, according to Dean Julia Rhoads.

A newly designed work-study area opened this spring in the J.D. Williams Library to give students better access to technology, research material and library services.

Located on the library's first floor, the Information Commons features 40 individual computer stations, armchairs with convenient pull-out desks and three group-study rooms equipped with 40-inch flat-screen TVs. A glass wall was added to buffer the noise.

"The commons is usually the busiest place in the library, and I think students

are finding it to be a great place to work," Dean Rhoads said.

Students appreciate the commons for several reasons, said Stan Whitehorn, library operations manager. "The library typically has a 'hush' atmosphere, but students asked for a place where they could go to discuss and work on projects," Whitehorn said.

An anonymous donor's gift provided funding for the area's new computers and furniture. 📖

Sarah Cure is a senior journalism intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations.

Accidental Discovery

Poignant papers capture civil rights era

by Sarah Cure

A collection of documents about early 20th century civil rights activist and educator Juliette Derricotte has been donated by Ken Oilschlager (BBA 71) to the J.D. Williams Library Department of Archives and Special Collections.

Derricotte is remembered for her influential role in supporting black colleges and education during the pre-segregation era. Her death in 1931 caused national uproar with the NAACP and Commission of Interracial Cooperation because she was denied medical treatment in a segregated hospital after an automobile accident.

"The Oilschlager/Derricotte collection helps to illustrate the civil rights movement with such a poignant story," said Jennifer Ford, head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections and associate professor.

Oilschlager said he discovered the ephemera by sheer accident about eight years ago while traveling on a back road to Atlanta searching for 1920s phonographic blues records. In a ramshackle building, he found the letters and old, unscathed Western Union telegrams that turned out to be condolences of friends

and colleagues to the Derricotte family. He also uncovered a news article from a Talladega College alumni magazine, pamphlets, brochures and letters from Derricotte to her family when she was traveling abroad.

"Derricotte deserves to be recognized because she was a young national leader who was

not only a woman but also a young black person growing up in the 1920s," Oilschlager said. "It is a shame she died under those circumstances, and there are many lessons to be learned from her important story."

Upon graduation from Talladega College in 1918, Derricotte was appointed first female trustee at the private Alabama institution. After attending the National YWCA Training School in New York, she became a delegate and general committee member of the World

A letter from the Oilschlager/Derricotte collection.

My very dear family,
Madras. Dec 27. 1926
This letter is being written in the midst of a meeting so it must necessarily be brief and may be very disconnected. We are 12 miles outside the city of Madras in a military camp in a conference of nearly 500 Indian student men and women. It is a rare experience in many ways. We are living in barracks, huge open barn like places with stone floors. The only furniture in the room when we arrived was a camp cot - you know the kind which has only a canvas cover - and that without any bedding, and a stool. Attached to the room is a little auto-room which serves as "our bath." I am rooming with an Indian girl, and with a Japanese woman. It has rained every day since we arrived, (have been here for four days) and I have never been so damp in all my days. The houses being you - everything gets wet - even the things in our suit cases get damp - The sheets are clammy so we crawl into them at night.

Student Christian Federation.

Under the auspices of WSCE, Derricotte traveled to England and India in 1924 and 1928 as one of two black delegates representing American college students and women.

She became the dean of women at Fisk University in 1929. On Nov. 6, 1931, Derricotte and

three Fisk University students were traveling to Athens, Ga., when their vehicle collided with another automobile. Derricotte and a student were seriously injured, but hospitals near Dalton, Ga., denied them admittance because they were black. They were housed at a black woman's home, but the student died overnight and Derricotte died the following day at Walden Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. 📖

Sarah Cure is a senior journalism intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations.

UM Knows the Blues

Renowned archive considered 'a sanctuary for the blues'

Robert Jordan



Living Blues magazine and the Blues Archive received a Blues Trail marker from the Mississippi Blues Commission during the annual Living Blues Symposium held at UM in February.


After toiling long hours in the fields under a hot Mississippi Delta sun, poor black sharecroppers of the early 20th century gathered on front porches and put their sorrow and suffering to music. The soulful lyrics and sounds of those early blues pio-

neers moved from house parties to juke joints, then north up the Mississippi River. Once commercialized, the powerful music gave root to jazz, country, rock 'n' roll and hip-hop—a major portion of America's popular music.

One can almost touch the origina-

tors and performers of this powerful art form on UM's Oxford campus, where for more than two decades blues music has been studied, written about, preserved and played.

The Blues Archive—part of the University Libraries' Department of Archives and Special Collections—holds 50,000 blues recordings, one of the world's largest collections, as well as some 15,000 photographs, more than 850 videotapes and more than 5,000 books, periodicals and newsletters. Additionally, the university publishes *Living Blues* magazine, America's oldest and most authoritative blues periodical, and produces "Highway 61," the blues radio show aired weekly on Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

"People think the blues is dying," said Charles Wilson, holder of the Cook Chair of History at UM. "It's not. Mississippi was at the heart of the blues from the beginning, and it continues to be thanks in part to The University of Mississippi. Ole Miss is truly a sanctuary for the blues." 

Building a Blues Legacy

Collection gives insight into Delta Blues Museum's founder

by Emily Welly

It was not until the 1970s when Sidney Foster Graves Jr. (MA '71) took the helm at the Carnegie Public Library in Clarksdale that the Mississippi Delta town began to harness the power of its blues-rich heritage.

Graves, founder of the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, died in 2005. Recently his daughter, Abby McCall of Mobile, Ala., donated a collection of his personal correspondence, awards, audio recordings and photographs to UM's Blues Archive. McCall said she hopes that scholars will study the collection and learn of her father's contributions to the blues legacy and to the state.

Graves grew up in Tunica and graduated from Millsaps College. He received a master's degree from UM and a Master of Library Science from Peabody College (now Vanderbilt). He became director of the Clarksdale Carnegie Public Library in 1976.

Regularly encountering tourists seeking out local blues landmarks such as Muddy Waters' cabin, Graves saw an opportunity and established the museum in 1979 as part of the Carnegie library, initially in its old Myrtle Hall branch. "Clarksdale didn't know what it was sitting on," said McCall, who was 5 years old when her father started the



Sid Graves (right) in the shadow of a lifelike sculpture of Muddy Waters.

CD collection grows the archive

After months of cataloging hundreds of CDs, the new Paul R. Feldbaumer Collection in UM's Blues Archive is now available.

The collection includes 2,600 blues sound recordings on CDs and LPs. The collection also includes 15 framed photographs of blues musicians, some



Greg Johnson

of which are autographed.

"It is nice to have this good collection of so many CDs," said Greg Johnson, associate professor and curator of the Blues Archive. "This collection will be very accessible."

Feldbaumer was the voice behind "The Blues Experience," a program on a public radio station in Hatboro, Pa., where he went by the moniker Paul Frenzy. He was also a member of the Blues Foundation. He died of a stroke in 2008 at age 51.

The items were donated by Paul's father, Bill Feldbaumer, who wanted to make sure his son's entire collection was housed in a library or archive where it would be used.

The collection has been catalogued and is available online at umiss.lib.olemiss.edu.

Lightning Hopkins, Sonny Boy Williamson and Sunnyland Slim are just a few of the artists featured on the hundreds of CDs included in the new Feldbaumer Collection.



museum.

"The museum, one of the earliest music museums in the country, is important to America's cultural heritage. What Sid started remains crucial to the ongoing development of downtown Clarksdale," said Shelley Ritter, director of the museum.

Among the museum's first items, McCall said, was one of B.B. King's Lucille guitars, which Graves hesitated to leave overnight in the museum for fear it would be stolen. "Every night, daddy would have to go get this guitar and lug it home," she said. Eventually, Graves received grants for exhibits and involved musical superstars, including ZZ Top, to make the museum a destination.

In 1999, after Graves' tenure, the museum moved to the historic Clarksdale freight depot, its current location. Today, the museum hosts both permanent and traveling exhibits. It includes a classroom for a year-round music education program and visiting lectures, and a stage that serves as the main venue during annual music festivals. Next door is actor Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero blues club. The museum has become a stop for visitors on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

"The fact that [Graves] was able to see the blues as a real cultural strength in Mississippi speaks a lot about him," said Greg Johnson, UM's blues curator and associate professor. "I think he's been proven correct."

At Your Fingertips

GIS gets site upgrade

by Sarah Cure

The Web site for the Government Information Services department at the J.D. Williams Library has undergone an extensive redesign and update to make searching for government information easier and more comprehensive.

Revamped in June 2008, the site at apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/gis/home is designed to help students, university personnel and Mississippi residents find any government-related information they need with the click of a mouse.

"We have the most extensive collection of federal documents in the state—more than 2.5 million documents," said Laura Harper, head of GIS, media and microforms. "Our updated Web pages help us to meet our goals of serving the information needs of all Mississippians and of supporting the smaller depository libraries within the state."

Designated as a Federal Depository Library in 1883, the J.D. Williams Library is Mississippi's regional federal depository and is also a depository for Mississippi state documents. The Web site for GIS was created in the late 1990s.

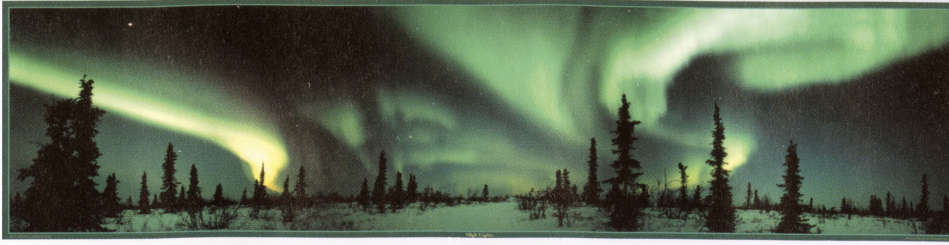
Initially focused on links to U.S. and Mississippi government agencies, the site provides access to information about other states and about foreign and international governments. In addition, users can locate information by topic without having to know specific agencies. They will find links to meta-sites such as the University of Michigan's Documents Center, portals like www.USA.gov and search engines that will expand their awareness of the incredible scope of available information. Newsfeeds from Reuters, *The New York Times* and www.stateline.org allow users to read the latest reports of national, state and international events.

The extensive array of available information also includes Mississippi Supreme Court cases, voting records, status of bills in the state Legislature or in Congress, tax forms from all states and online government services such as license renewals and passport applications.

"I want to make it easier for people to find the information they need," Harper said. "They might even discover new sources of information they never imagined before."

Sarah Cure is a senior journalism intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations.

Artists capture 'The World at Night'



"High Lights" by TWAN photographer Leroy Zimmerman, www.photosymphony.com


Astronomy and art intersected in a stellar exhibit at the J.D. Williams Library during April to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. The year commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's use of a telescope to study the skies and Jo-

hannes Kepler's publication of *Astronomia Nova*.

"The World at Night," or TWAN, featured 30 photographs of beautiful and historic sites against a nighttime backdrop of stars, planets and celestial events.

"It is wonderful to have this exhibition showing how art and science can be blended together," said Marco Cavaglia, assistant professor of physics and astronomy and coordinator of the exhibits. "Many scientists of the past were also artists and vice versa."

A public presentation related to TWAN featured guest speaker Wally Pacholka, a TWAN photographer and member of Astronomers Without Borders.

TWAN is a volunteer effort operating under Astronomers Without Borders, a U.S. nonprofit corporation. The exhibit was displayed on six continents during March and April, with UM being the first North American host. 

Collection reflects financial history

by Sarah Cure

The J.D. Williams Library Department of Archives and Special Collections received a donation of approximately 400 items of early Mississippi currency and financial ephemera from UM alumnus and collector Joe Overstreet (BBA 75) in December. The collection consists of obsolete currency and financial documents from 1809 to the mid-20th century. Overstreet purchased it from Mississippi collector, dealer and author Guy Kraus.

"I doubt there is another collection like this," Overstreet said. "This is Mr. Kraus' personal collection that took him years to acquire, and I'm glad to see it be used for scholarly purposes at Ole Miss."

The collection includes original promissory notes from the Mississippi Territory from 1809-11, early tax receipts from Holly Springs and Lafayette County for the Mississippi Central Railroad in the 1850s, bank drafts issued during the Civil War era and numerous financial notes from early Mississippi banking companies, businesses and individuals from the 1830s to 1900s.

Sarah Cure is a senior intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations. 

Accountants gather at UM library


More than 200 members of the Southeastern American Accountancy Association and guests from as far away as China attended the association's annual meeting hosted at The University of Mississippi April 30-May 2.

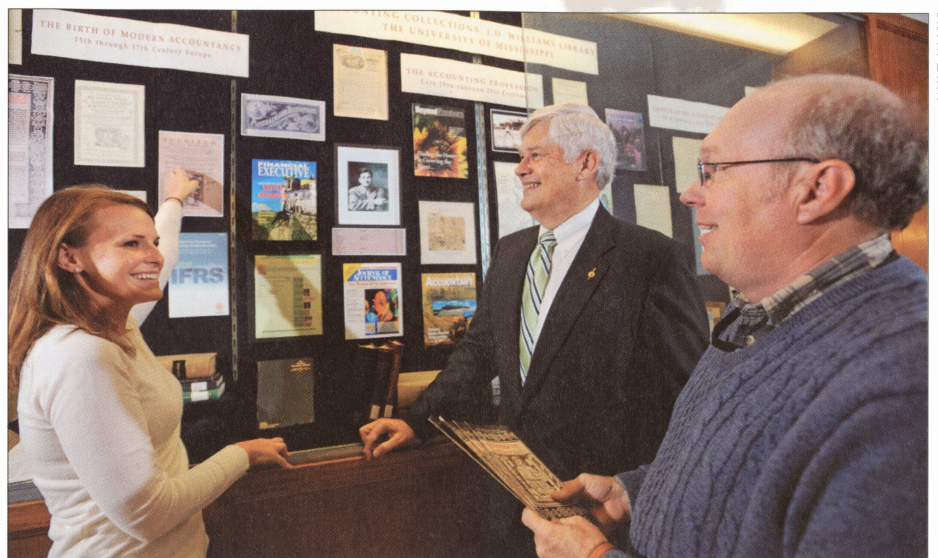
A highlight of their visit was a tour of the most prestigious accounting library collection in the world—the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants housed at the J.D. Williams Library.

Officials from the New York-based AICPA organization moved the collection of more than 125,000 items to the university in 2001. Included are rare items such as Pacioli's famous *Summa de Arithmetica, Geometria, Proportioni*

et Proportionalita printed in Venice in 1494.

Upon accepting the collection, Chancellor Robert Khayat expressed the university's gratitude, calling the items a scholarly treasure.

"This library not only will provide a rich resource for our students, faculty and staff but also enhance the research stature of our university and the state of Mississippi," Khayat said. "As more and more material in libraries becomes digital, we believe that unique research collections such as this one will help reinforce our national prominence and enhance our quest to become a member of the national Association of Research Libraries." 



Dale Flesher (center), professor of accountancy, expresses appreciation to Pamela Williamson (left), curator of visual collections, and Royce Kurtz, reference librarian, for preparing an exhibit for members of the Southeastern American Accountancy Association.

Writer finds 'ghosts' in Ole Miss archives

When ESPN journalist Wright Thompson began researching his article on the 1962 Ole Miss football team, the J.D. Williams Library was the first place he turned. Thompson said that much of what he found most pertinent he obtained from UM's civil rights and race relations collections.

In his article, "Ghosts of Mississippi," which appeared on ESPN.com in February, Thompson writes, "I dove into the Ole Miss library's special collection, containing records and artifacts from the 1962 riots. Each page changed the way I looked at the place around me, the way I looked at the places inside myself where I love my state and its traditions."

"We have lots of students, authors and journalists come to use our special collections," said Jennifer Ford, head of the

Department of Archives and Special Collections and associate professor. "We're thrilled when we can be of service to someone in his or her research. These collections are a window into our past."

Thompson said one of the things that struck him most was that he was able to touch these historical documents.

"I was amazed that I could just, for example, pick up and flip through the actual notebooks used by the soldier tasked with guarding James Meredith," he said. "When you can get that close to something, it makes it very real. It helped me a lot in my writing, being able to pull information from the real-life papers of the time."

He added, "The library staff was incredibly gracious and helpful. I'm thank-

ful that they are willing to put up with people like me who want to come and look through absolutely everything."

To read Thompson's article, visit sports.espn.go.com/espn/eticket/story?page=mississippi62.

ESPN journalist Wright Thompson



Mississippians to learn archiving thanks to IMLS grant

by Katie Hiatt

Employees of historical repositories in Mississippi will soon have the opportunity to gain the knowledge needed to properly archive and preserve historical documents thanks to the Archival Training Collaborative grant project.

After discovering that historical repositories in the Gulf Coast region often lacked personnel knowledgeable in historical preservation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded Louisiana State University a \$280,000 grant to organize a three-year program to address the need for affordable archival training in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.

Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections at the J.D. Williams Library, is serving on the ATC steering committee.

"This is a need that should be met because we are talking about very important records and documents that, if preserved, will be beneficial for future generations," Ford said. "In most cases, people don't have the necessary expertise available to them."

The program began in July 2008 and



Jennifer Ford is on a committee addressing the need for archival training. will continue until June 2011.

Currently the project is in its first phase, which includes scheduling training opportunities in the three states. From December to February, the ATC hosted three initial workshops in Baton Rouge, La., Columbus, Miss., and Bir-

mingham, Ala.

The workshops used free Web-based educational material, and an experienced professional was available to answer questions and clarify concepts.

The initial workshops were successful with overwhelmingly positive participant evaluations, according to Elizabeth Dow, archives educator in the School of Library and Information Science at LSU and the grant's principal investigator.

The ATC hopes to generate interest among staff at all historical repositories regardless of size, including churches, public offices, civic offices and record-creating and collecting institutions for upcoming training sessions.

"This grant is important for us because it allows us to help train people across the state to preserve at-risk material," said Dean of University Libraries Julia Rhoads. "Through this grant, we can share our expertise and knowledge as a way to give back to the state. I think that's terrific."

Katie Hiatt is a senior journalism intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations.

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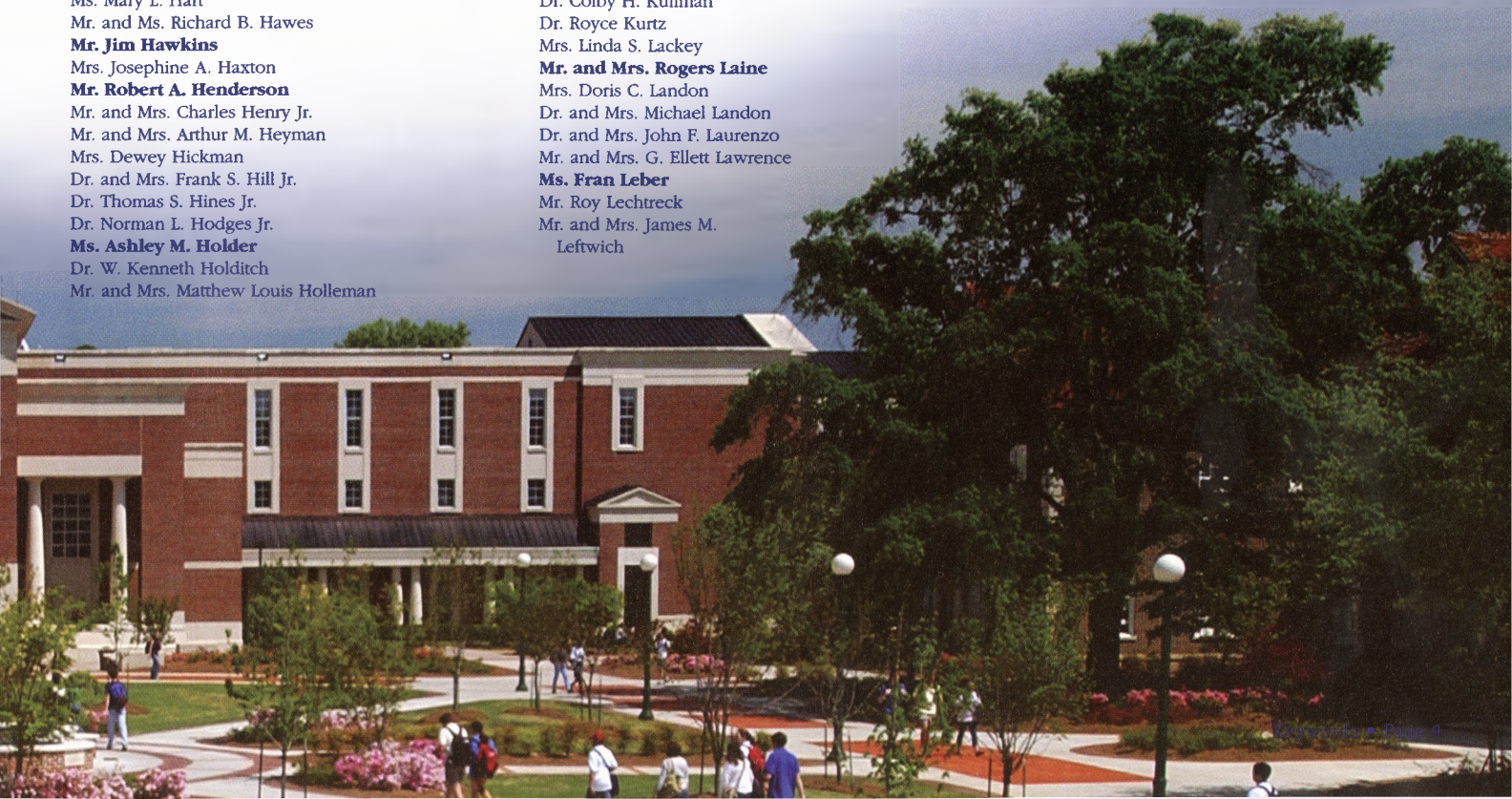
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from 1960-85, Pilkington taught one of the first-ever university courses devoted to Faulkner and was a moving force in establishing the annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference at Ole Miss. He designed many new classes, directed many doctoral dissertations and master's theses and developed and taught correspondence courses for which he won a major award from the National

University Extension Association.

As associate dean of The University of Mississippi Graduate School from 1970-77, he upheld academic standards for graduate students and directed expenditures of the legislative "catch-up funds" for the library. In 1977, three outside administrators chose Pilkington as the first Ole Miss Distinguished Professor.

Pilkington published numerous jour-

nal articles on American writers and wrote six volumes: *Francis Marion Crawford* (Twayne, 1964), *Henry Blake Fuller* (Twayne, 1971), *Stark Young* (Mississippi Library Commission, 1976), *Stark Young, A Life in the Arts: Letters, 1900-1962* (two vols., Louisiana State University Press, 1975) and *The Heart of Yoknapatawpha* (University Press of Mississippi, 1981). 📖

One Title at a Time

Book aficionados gradually donate their collection to library

by Katie Hiatt

When California retirees Howard and Sylvia Lenhoff moved to Oxford seven years ago, they immediately began to immerse themselves in their new environment, looking for ways not only to enhance their own lives but also to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Lenhoffs spent the majority of their careers at the University of California, Irvine, where Howard is a professor emeritus of biology and Sylvia served as director of relations with schools and colleges. When they relocated to Oxford, one of the first places they visited was J.D. Williams Library on the Ole Miss campus, a natural fit for the two book aficionados.

Over the years, they have acquired an impressive collection of books, much of which they brought with them when they moved. "It is fairly normal that when a professor dies, the spouse is often left with classics in a chosen field and opts to sell them to book dealers," Howard said.

Not so for the Lenhoffs, who have been donating rare and valuable books from their collection to the library since they arrived in Oxford.

"I feel that these books belong to universities, so they'll be available to everyone," Howard said. "Ole Miss has done much to make us feel at home. We feel lucky to be here."

Dean Julia Rholes said, "The Lenhoffs are the epitome of what good neighbors should be. By donating valuable rare titles, they are enriching the library for future users. They are setting an example we hope others will follow. A library cannot have enough supporters like them."

Typical of the kinds of books the Lenhoffs have collected is a recent donation to the library that includes a rare, magnificent six-volume set of James Bruce's *Travels to Discover the Source of*

the Nile: in the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1772 and 1773, which was published in 1790-91 in Dublin.

It seems to be in the couple's nature to make unusual choices.

"Almost everything that we do—whether scholarly study, donations, charitable work, writing—is in areas that have yet to capture mainstream interest," Howard said.

As for charitable efforts, his volunteer work has reached from Oxford to Quitman County. Almost single-handedly, the Lenhoffs are providing every impoverished school-age child in Quitman and three adjoining

Delta counties with clothing, books and backpacks to help ensure they are able to attend school.

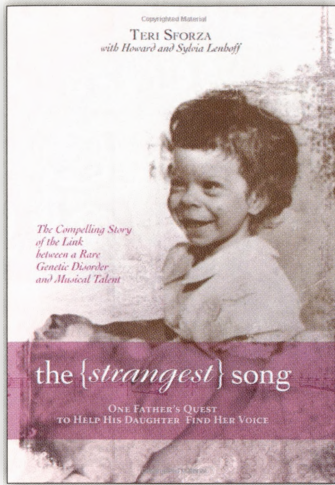
Even Howard's chosen areas of study and research were on subjects less studied. After receiving his degree in biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University, he spent his professional career researching a variety of fields including the transfer of electrons, marine biology, the simple fresh-water hydra, medical technology, the history of science and music cognition.

He has published more than 200 scientific papers and 13 books. Sylvia, meanwhile, has co-written a dozen of those papers and translated one of those books. They have donated copies of their own books to the library, including *The Strangest Song: One Father's Quest to Help His Daughter Find Her Voice* (Prometheus Books, 2006), the story of their daughter, Gloria, whose unusual musical gifts are related to her having Williams syndrome, a rare genetic condition. With her parents' special guidance, Gloria lives a happy and productive life focused on music.

The Lenhoffs have also become hooked on Barry Hannah, UM's writer-in-residence. They funded a creative writing scholarship in honor of Hannah and his wife, and they own and cherish first editions of Hannah's books as well as a few rare items related to Hannah, such as his high-school yearbook, which will also eventually be donated.

Surveying the many books in their home, Howard pointed to a 1744 French classic that Sylvia translated into English. "There are only 60 copies of this volume left in the world," he said. "That is why we're giving our remaining copy to the library, where it will be cared for and will be available to research scholars. And, for us, we get more space in our home to buy more books."

Katie Hiatt is a senior journalism intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations.



The Lenhoffs gave a copy of a book about their daughter to the library.



Howard and Sylvia Lenhoff have been donating rare and valuable books to the J.D. Williams Library since they relocated to Oxford from California.

Kevin Bain

Ongoing Exhibits

*Faulkner Room, J.D. Williams Library
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