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Keywords

Summer 2011

Exhibit marks Civil War sesquicentennial anniversary

By Deborah Purnell



Nathana Latil

Jennifer Ford, head of UM Archives and Special Collections, reviews the commemorative Civil War exhibit, on display through September in the Faulkner Room of the J.D. Williams Library.

The J.D. Williams Library is hosting a yearlong exhibition in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

"This Fiery Trial: An Exhibit on Mississippi and the American Civil War," featuring a large collection of Civil War artifacts and documents, is on display in the Faulkner Room of the library. The exhibition will conclude in September.

"This Fiery Trial' has been one of our spotlight exhibitions since fall," said Jennifer Ford, head of UM Archives and Special Collections. "This exhibit is extensive. It goes chronologically from secession to 1865 and reconstruction, and we have more than 18 cases of items."

This collection is the first Civil War exhibit put together by UM Archives and Special Collections. It took about two months to assemble, and most of the items in the collection were donated.

Several months went into deciding which artifacts to include in the collection, Ford said.

"We have so many wonderful donations of Civil War artifacts,

including medicals books, documents and letters from family collections," she said. "We took our time to figure out the best way to put the collections together, and we tried to include the Mississippi perspective on the Civil War."

Because of the volume of material in the exhibition, Ford said she is grateful for the help of many people, especially history graduate student Audrey M. Uffner.

"It was an honor to help with this collection," said Uffner, a native of Lebanon, Pa. "The collection provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the importance of this pivotal period in our nation's history. This is an exhibition every American must see."

Julia Rholes, dean of University

Libraries, agreed that the exhibit is worth a visit.

"I think this exhibit is a wonderful way to learn something about a very important part of our history and one that our state certainly played a major role in and suffered major losses," Rholes said.


The collection covers many topics, including camp life, combat, prisons, slavery, the university and the war, hospitals and women on the home front. The exhibit even displays hair jewelry.

One notable item is a letter from a slave who was attempting to write his family history in two pages.

"It's very rare to find a slave letter," Ford said.

Another item is a letter from William Nelson, a university student who fought with the 9th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. He wrote about Lincoln's election and how it would cause a dissolution of the Union. Ford has published a book about his letters, *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony: The Civil War Letters of Lt. William Cowper Nelson of Mississippi*.

John Neff, director of the UM Center for Civil War Research, described the exhibition as "a splendid exhibition demonstrating the breadth of the university's Civil War archival holdings."

"The hard work of Dr. Ford and the archival staff has produced a thoroughly educational as well as entertaining exhibit," Neff said. 

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Librarian receives prestigious American Library Association award

By Rebecca Lauck Cleary

Message from the Dean

With this issue of *Keywords*, we hope to alert you to some of the great things that are happening or have recently happened in the University Libraries.

We invite you to experience the wonderful new Civil War exhibit that Jennifer Ford, head of Archives and Special Collections, and her able staff, have put together. The exhibit will be up through the summer and showcases the breadth of our special collections on this topic. The exhibit consists mainly of items that were donated to the collection and includes items from some recent donations, such as rare medical texts donated by Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Canale and documents and artifacts donated by Eugene Craven Callaway.

In this issue, we are also featuring some recent efforts aimed at improving our services for students. By adding a new classroom, we hope to reach more students with our library instruction and literacy program. We are trying to offer instruction to all freshmen as we believe that information literacy is a key element for academic success. We have also recently initiated an outreach program aimed specifically at student athletes, some of our busiest students. Initial response to this innovative program has been enthusiastic. We also hope to expand our efforts for distance-learning students, a growing student population.

Again, we are so grateful to library donors who have helped us with these important programs.

Sincerely,
Julia Rholes
Dean of University Libraries

A University of Mississippi librarian is the recipient of an annual national award from the Government Documents Round Table, or GODORT, of the American Library Association.

Laura Harper, head of government information technical services and regional depository librarian at UM's J.D. Williams Library, will be given the 2011 Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award. The award recognizes documents librarians who may not be known at the national level but who have made significant contributions to the field of local, state, federal or international documents. Those contributions benefited not only the individual's institution but also the profession. The winner receives a plaque.

"I was totally surprised and overwhelmed when I was notified by John Phillips, a member of the GODORT awards committee," Harper said. "I'm very appreciative of the efforts of my colleagues who wrote letters supporting my nomination."

Harper's letters of recommendation mention numerous examples of her work, including her helpfulness and her ability to "find anything you're looking for."

"Laura has contributed significantly to promoting and improving access to government information in the state of Mississippi," wrote Gail Herrera, UM assistant dean for technical services and automation. "During her tenure as regional depository librarian, she has developed a passion for the collection. Her goal of making the collection accessible to the public is second to none."

Harper has been active on the national level within GODORT and other units of the American and Mississippi library associations. She serves on the steering committee of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries Collaborative Federal Depository Program.

In addition, she mentors other




Laura Harper

librarians within the state, assisting them with inspection preparations, biennial surveys and collection development.

"In her duties as regional coordinator of Mississippi government documents libraries, Laura has without fail demonstrated true devotion," said Tracy Englert, information services librarian and associate professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. "She is an extraordinary librarian."

Harper expressed her gratitude to those who helped advance her career pursuits.

"I certainly want to thank Dr. Jean Major, our library director at the time, who chose me for the job of government documents head in 1988," Harper said. "The library also owes a debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Dr. Annie Mills, who built the collection from 1950 to 1988 and was responsible for our becoming the regional depository for Mississippi in 1975."

GODORT presents three major awards to recognize achievements by documents librarians, one award designed to encourage participation in professional study or publication and a scholarship for those pursuing a library science degree. Awards are presented at the ALA annual conference. 

Chinese Flagship Program benefits from donation

By Jane Bryan Meek

Last October, the J.D. Williams Library became the new home to a large collection of Chinese books as the result of a generous donation made by Chun-Jo Liu, a retired professor of Chinese literature at the University of Minnesota.

Upon her retirement, Liu decided to donate her personal and professional library of academic books that cover numerous fields of Chinese language and culture, including Chinese linguistics, history, religion and literature. The entire collection consists of 1,696 soft cover texts and 342 in hardback. Thus far, approximately 500 books have been cataloged and shelved. According to Daisy Cheng, head of cataloging, the complete collection will be available by the end of the fall 2011 semester.

Accepting this collection would not have been possible without the language expertise of Cheng, who continues to review the texts written in Chinese and catalog them in a national database system. She found that some of the books are not located in any other library in North America, while others exist in a very small number of schools scattered around the United States.

"This collection graciously given to our library enhances our bibliographic profile, provides students and faculty with important literary resources and makes our university one of the larger repositories of Chinese materials in the area," said Donald Dyer, chair of modern languages.

Dean of University Libraries Julia Rholes agreed.

"This noteworthy collection has added great strength to our collections and should serve our fast growing Chinese language and international studies programs," she said.

One reason Liu chose to donate to Ole Miss was due to a lack of Chinese curricula and resources at universities in the South as a whole. Michelle Emanuel, senior subject librarian for humanities and selector for art, media and modern languages, is excited by how this donation could be of use to students across the South.

"This donation will enhance the



Robert Jordan

UM librarians Michelle Emanuel and Daisy Cheng work to catalogue a newly acquired collection of more than 1,000 Chinese books.

region's collection that we can lend through the interlibrary loan system, so hopefully it will be appreciated by many," she said.

'This collection... makes our university one of the larger repositories of Chinese materials in the area.'

—Don Dyer

Most of the texts focus on Liu's area of expertise in Chinese literature, the folkloric form of opera that dates back to the third century AD. To properly research the language used in these operas and their historical contexts, Liu collected numerous Chinese dictionaries. According to Yongping Zhu, professor of Chinese at the Croft Institute of International Studies, these dictionaries will be the most useful texts of the entire collection for students.

"In each historical time period and

region, Chinese language was evolving, and our students will need these dictionaries to properly understand such shifts in the language," he said.


Another reason Liu chose Ole Miss to house her collection is her long-standing friendship with Zhu, her former student and colleague.

"Dr. Liu was my doctoral adviser, and I told her how few Chinese books we had at Ole Miss," he said. "That's why she chose us to receive her donation over the other schools where she has worked. It's a real honor."

Students in the Chinese Language Flagship Program expressed their enthusiasm at the expansion of the library's Chinese selection.

"It's exciting," said Tori Thoman, a sophomore Chinese major. "This will attract more students to the program."

Cheng created an author index in the online catalog under the name of the books' former owner, Liu Chun-Jo, so that those interested could begin browsing what is available from the entire collection. Cheng also noted that she found some books to have delicately hand-stitched bindings, requiring them to be shelved separately.


"Five sets of books published at the turn of the 20th century and bound in traditional Chinese style will be placed in the Harrison Room," she said. 



New website links Civil War collections

University Libraries has contributed to a new website that provides one-stop access to materials about the American Civil War era, 1850 through 1865.

Created by members of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), the new website, www.american-south.org, connects users to primary-source Civil War materials held across ASERL libraries. The site is expected to grow to more than 5,000 digitized items that vary from manuscripts and letters to sermons, economic data and other types of publications. They all share a common link: All were written and published during the Civil War era, and all document the intellectual and cultural milieu leading up to and defining the era.

"As research librarians, we are delighted to see this shared collection come online," said John Ulmschneider, ASERL's board president and university librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University. "What would have been disparate, local collections now have increased public visibility and much greater utility for scholars and students, with a single, shared search tool. The www.american-south.org website will become an invaluable tool for researchers, students and educators as we learn more about the American Civil War." 

Rare Civil War books donated by Memphis couple

By Rebecca Lauck Cleary



Kevin Bain

Dr. D.J. Canale (left) and Janet Canale (center) review the collection of Civil War-era medical texts they recently donated to the university with Jennifer Ford, head of Archives and Special Collections.

Dr. D.J. Canale of Memphis, a retired neurosurgeon, has spent years collecting rare books related to Civil War history, particularly the medical treatment of soldiers in the field. The medical historian and his wife, Janet, have donated their collection to the University of Mississippi to be available to other historians, researchers and the general public.

"Dr. and Mrs. Canale's gift of more than 100 items is the largest donation of Civil War-era medical and nonmedical books and treatises to the archives," said Jennifer Ford, director of the J.D. Williams Library's Archives and Special Collections. "It fills a gap in our collection and is a very significant contribution to the department."

Canale, who also has collected rare books on other subjects for decades, said he believed his Civil War-related books should be kept together. After reading about a gift that alumnus Don Barrett of Lexington had made to support the university's new Center for Civil War Research, Canale visited the Oxford campus. He met with John Neff, associate professor of history and center director, and decided the books should become part of the Archives and Special Collections.


"My book collection is composed of first editions and primary sources, and I am really pleased to keep the collection together," the physician said. "After I decided the J.D. Williams Library would

be a perfect home, I also learned that Jennifer Ford's doctoral studies focused on the Civil War.

"My collection is not entirely medically related; I made a conscious effort to obtain other rare books related to the Confederacy because my two great-grandfathers fought in this war."

For example, some of the nonmedical books provide definitive accounts of the hardships faced by women and children in the South when the Northern forces came through.

Some important medical discoveries came from the conflict, Canale said. Of particular note among the medical books is Dr. J. Julian Chisolm's *Manual of Military Surgery for the Use of Surgeons in the Confederate States Army*, which was one of the main works used by surgeons in the field and in hospitals. Also included is a piece on gunshot wounds that Ford described as "particularly rare," as well as a work on the science of amputations.

Canale has written articles and book chapters on medical history. His fascination with rare books spread to other subjects, and, to build their collection, he and his wife visited specialty bookstores wherever they traveled. He also added books to his collection from auctions and catalogs and has even operated Old South Books, a rare and antiquarian book business, since 1978. 

Papers from late 1800s donated to library

By Erin Parsons

More than 50 years ago, when Gene Callaway asked his grandmother to let him look in the attic, he had no idea what he would find.

"She told me to go ahead," Callaway said. "She didn't think anyone else was interested in what was up there."

What he discovered was a large assortment of documents and artifacts that gave insight into the history of his family.

"I found a treasure chest of historical documents, letters, Bibles, books, a Civil War sword, guns and all sorts of things," he said. "They were in a large chest, which I still have to this day."

Callaway, a retired educator and

principal from Tupelo, recently donated a portion of this collection to J.D. Williams Library's Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi.


The material, dating from the 1830s to the 1880s, consists of the family papers and correspondence of the Callaway family, who then lived in the Oxford and Pontotoc areas.

"There are Gold Rush letters in the collection and several Civil War letters," said Jennifer Ford, director of Archives and Special Collections. "The collection also contains a very rare copy of the first spelling book printed for the Choctaw Indian tribe, published in 1825."

Callaway spent years determining

who wrote the letters and how they were related to him. He found that his great-great-grandfather, James Render Callaway, wrote many of the letters in the collection. He was a Methodist minister who established Mount Zion Church in Lafayette County.

Callaway said he believed that the university was the most appropriate place for the Eugene Craven Callaway Collection.

"James Callaway spent his last years here in Oxford, so I thought this would be a good receptacle for this collection," he said. "I know it will be taken care of and hopefully used for research for generations to come." 

Lecture marks firing on Fort Sumter

A lecture was held in the Faulkner Room of the J.D. Williams Library on April 12 to mark the sesquicentennial of the firing on Fort Sumter, S.C., the event that started the American Civil War.

In the early months of 1861, a small man-made island in Charleston Harbor became the focal point of tension between the United States and the newly formed Confederate States of America.


"For the North, the stakes of maintaining control of Fort Sumter involved the integrity of national government based on the principle of free democratic elections," said John Neff, director of the UM Center for Civil War Research, who gave the lecture. "Southern leadership understood that nothing less than [its] sovereignty as a nation lay in the balance. At that site, the decision for war began a conflict that would transform the American people forever."

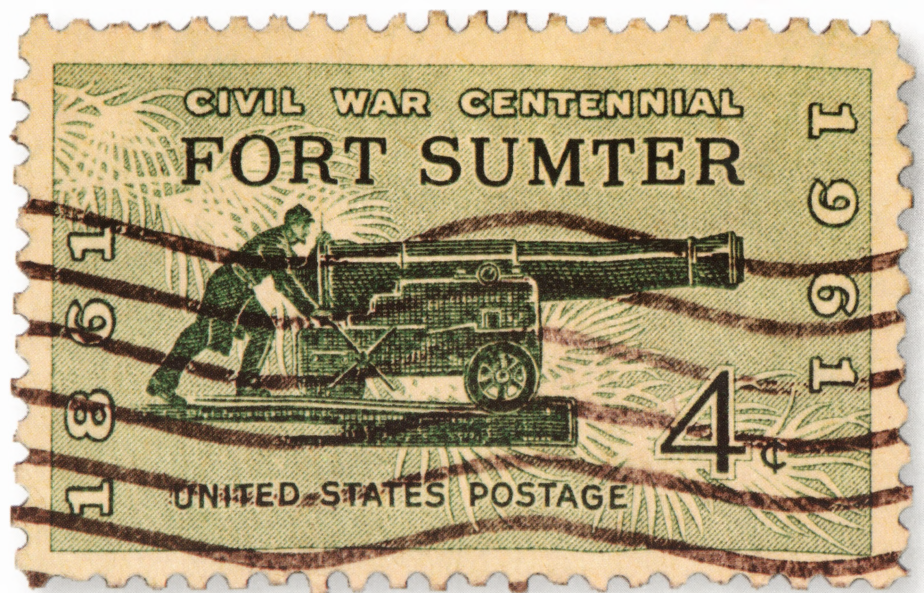
Neff's talk, which addressed both

scholars and the general public, is relevant today, said Jennifer Ford, head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections.

"Dr. Neff's work with Civil War memory and commemoration makes him uniquely qualified to speak about the beginning of the Civil War," Ford

said. "The events surrounding Fort Sumter were followed avidly by the entire world, and Lafayette County, Mississippi, was no exception."

For more information about the Center for Civil War Research, visit <http://civilwarcenter.olemiss.edu>, or call Neff at 662-915-3969. 



Reference librarians tutor student-athletes

By Deborah Purnell

Recognizing that the “student” in every student-athlete is a critical component, the University of Mississippi goes to great lengths to ensure success in the classroom goes hand in hand with success in sports.

Ryan Johnson, Jonathan McMichael and Melissa Dennis, all members of the Reference Department at the J.D. Williams Library, hope to add to that success by providing an outreach program for student-athletes.

Johnson, head of information service, said the program’s goals are to improve athletes’ research skills and to train student-athlete tutors.

While the student-athlete outreach component is new, the library provides similar services to the schools of Education and Business Administration, Johnson said.

“We are excited to have another way to reach out to our students. This is a new endeavor; in fact, we just got started this spring. It’s still growing, but I think it will become popular,” Johnson said.

‘We saw a gap in their services, and we thought we had the requisite training and insight to fill that gap.’

—Jonathan McMichael

Bobby Nix, assistant director of academic enrichment for the FedEx Student-Athlete Academic Support Center, said he considers the library’s outreach program to be “a smashing success.”

“The Reference staff [members have] made themselves available to student-athletes every Monday night from 6 to 9 p.m.,” Nix said. “They volunteered to



Naibon Lazi

Student-athlete Rena Goodwin (left) has benefited from tutoring services provided by the library staff, including Jonathan McMichael.

do this. It’s unbelievable. If a student-athlete is struggling with research, [he or she] can walk into Jonathan’s office, and he offers expert advice and top-notch help.”

Rena Goodwin, a freshman from Winchester, Mass., is among the student-athletes who has taken advantage of the library’s outreach program.

“I really appreciate their tips on focused research and instruction,” said Goodwin, a member of the women’s rifle team. “I heard they were going to continue this program, and I am happy about that. Mr. McMichael is friendly and patient.”

Nix said he is especially thankful for the tutor training, which addressed tips and tricks for A-plus research.

“We have 85 tutors working with our athletes, and Jonathan, Melissa and Ryan came in and provided the best tutor training we’ve had in four years,” Nix said. “It was more than how to do research, but also what sites to use and which ones should be avoided.”

Nix is making plans for the Reference staff to talk to incoming freshmen athletes this summer. The staff is thrilled to be involved in the summer

orientation program and will offer instruction sessions and tours, said McMichael, a reference librarian and assistant professor.

“Student-athletes have a unique collegiate experience, particularly on this campus,” he said. “They live highly regimented and contextualized campus lives. They look to advisers and student services for academic support.

“Regardless of how well our reference, instruction and academic support services were designed, they were not embedded in the places athletes look for help with academics. We saw a gap in their services, and we thought we had the requisite training and insight to fill that gap.”

When the staff members developed the outreach plan, they did not know it would be so well-received, McMichael said.

“It has been slow at first but has picked up in recent weeks,” he said. “We expected it to take time for the program to find maximum usage. Now it seems that we will have to expand to multiple shifts per week and provide specialized instruction sessions.”

Program celebrates opening of J.P. Coleman's judicial papers

By Erin Parsons

A panel discussion focusing on J.P. Coleman's judicial files from his years on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit was held in March at the University of Mississippi.

"The J.P. Coleman Collection is a significant collection in understanding Southern legal history," said Leigh McWhite, political papers archivist and assistant professor. "This particular event also provided the university an opportunity to commemorate the life of an alumnus with an amazing career of public service."

Several panelists spoke at the event. Judge Leslie Southwick of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit discussed Coleman's nomination and

confirmation; John B. Clark, senior partner of Daniel, Coker, Horton, and Bell, recalled his service as the judge's law clerk; and John Winkle, UM professor of political science, addressed the realignment of the Fifth Circuit during Coleman's tenure as chief judge.

President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the former Mississippi governor (1956-60) to the federal bench in 1965. Coleman gained the rank of chief judge in 1979, assumed senior status in 1981 and retired from the bench in 1984.

"Case files maintained by individual judges offer documents that can provide valuable insight into court deliberations and the internal workings of the judiciary," McWhite said. "This is material



Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Leslie Southwick was a panelist at the March event.

that is not available in the official court records."

The Coleman discussion was the second in a series of programs over the next few years on law-related collections. Future panels will focus on the judicial papers of Orma Smith and Claude F. Clayton, the files of John C. Satterfield (American Bar Association president from 1961 to 1962) and the collection of U.S. Sen. James O. Eastland. 📦

Giving Opportunity

The Modern Political Archives has launched an ambitious digitization project to scan all the correspondence between U.S. Sen. James O. Eastland and his congressional colleagues. A new, high-quality scanner for legal-sized pages will facilitate this particular project and similar ones in the future.

Cost: \$499.99

Library plans summer classroom construction

By Andrew Abernathy

Library instruction is rapidly growing at Ole Miss, and plans to begin construction of a state-of-the-art classroom at the J.D. Williams Library in June represent an effort to embrace this growing demand for research and reference education.

The UM library instruction program, currently operating out of one room, has seen steady growth during the past 10 years, and the record freshman enrollment of 3,095 in fall 2010 and an estimated 3,500 to 3,700 for fall 2011 has generated demand for additional learning space to help students hone research skills. During the 2009-10 academic year, more than 580 library sessions were taught to more than 11,000 students. Currently the library is experiencing a more than 30 percent increase in library instruction per year.

"Two classrooms will alleviate turning away library classes during

the peak instruction times," said Amy E. Mark, information literacy and instruction librarian and associate professor. "This classroom will enable librarians to engage with students who have multiple learning styles. Millennial students are collaborative learners, and laptops provide them with the ability to work in groups."

As part of this expansion, the library's current classroom—located next to the second floor coffee shop—will move to the first floor near the commons area, where the new classroom will be constructed. The new facility will feature a larger space with movable tables and chairs, 40 laptops for students, and an instructor station with the latest technology to assist with student-centered learning. The larger space also will open library instruction to classes with larger enrollment such as freshman- and sophomore-level

courses in the College of Liberal Arts, School of Applied Sciences and School of Business Administration. The design of the room is based on recent research on classroom design and visits to other universities by library leaders.

According to Mark, the library instruction program serves a diverse range of undergraduate students, and the first-year library instruction initiative places an emphasis on setting all freshmen on a level playing field for library research. Upper-division education focuses on advanced and discipline-specific research from librarians who have high levels of subject proficiency.

The university library system is continuously seeking external funding to upgrade and maintain equipment and software and to bring library instruction online. 📦

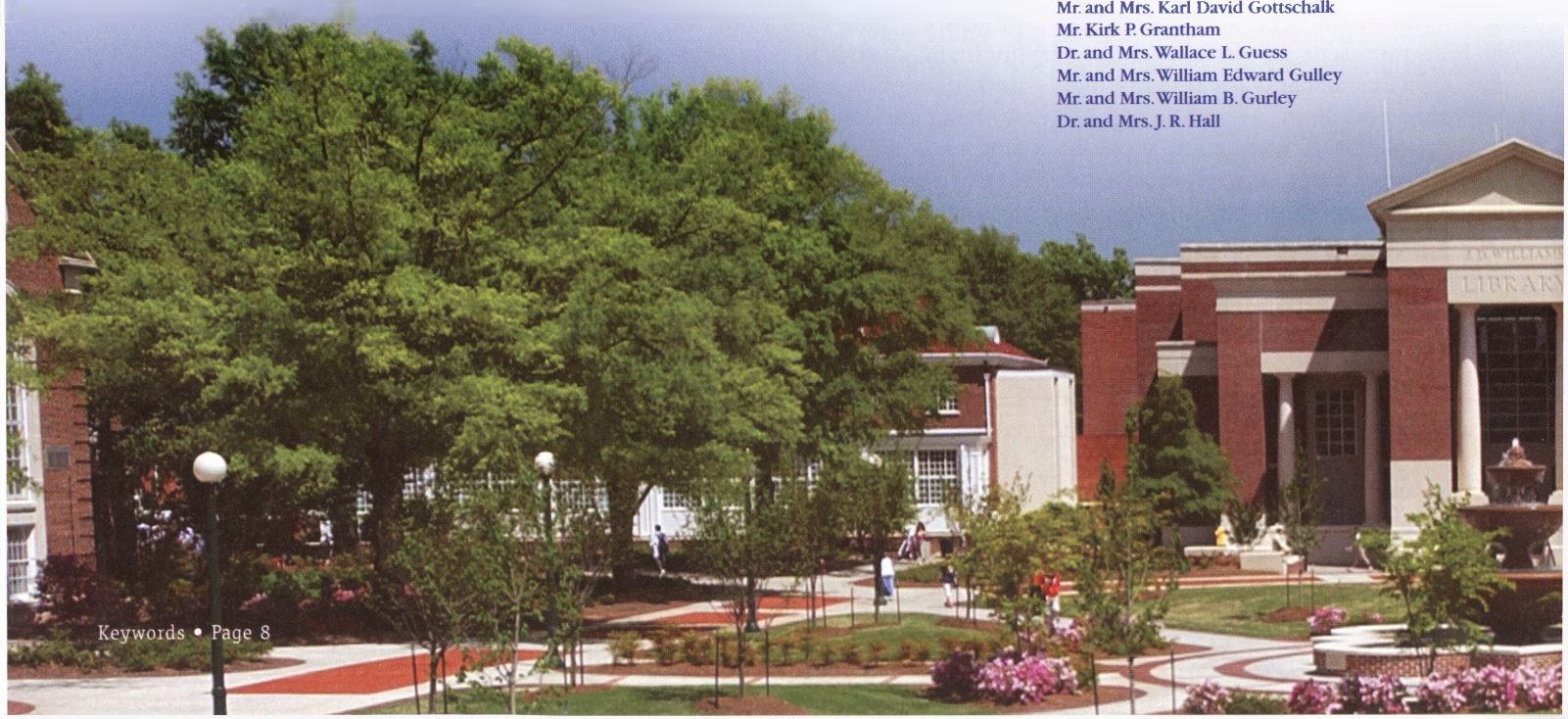
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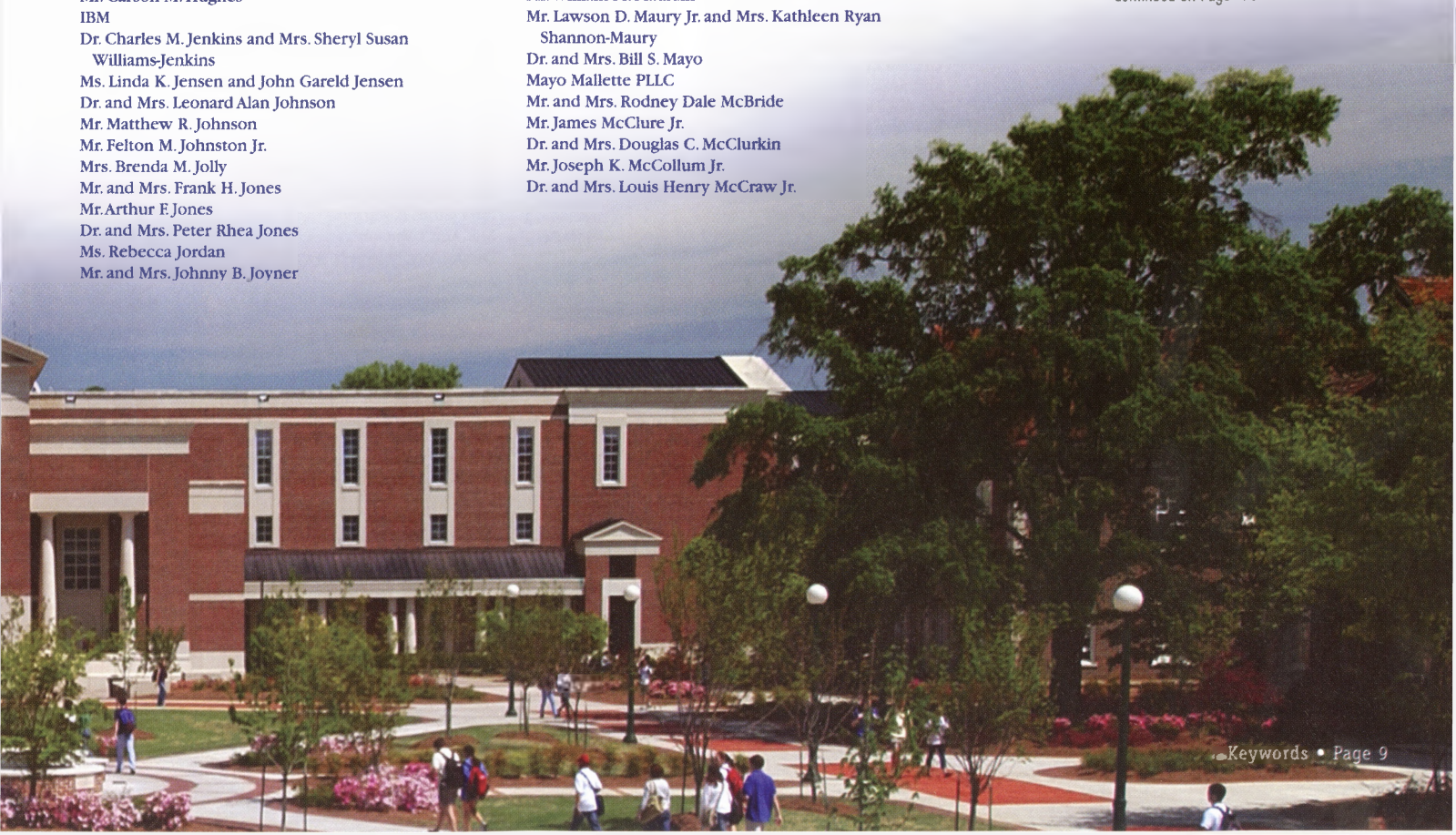


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Increased enrollment places demands on libraries



Our university is blessed with a tremendous increase in enrollment. The 2010 freshman class was the largest in the university's history, and the 2011 class looks to be larger still. With increased enrollment comes an increased demand on

the University Libraries to provide services and materials for students and faculty. From sponsoring new classrooms and more study and collaborative work spaces, to purchasing more books, journals and databases, private supporters of the University Libraries will impact all academic components of the university. Donors such as you have allowed us to meet those needs in the past and will

continue to do so in the future. We rely on your generosity to help us maintain the impact we have on the life of this university.

Sincerely,
Michael Upton
Associate Director of Development

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Online database encourages researchers to explore Mississippi's congressional history

By Andrew Abernathy

After two years of work, a newly developed research tool at the J.D. Williams Library is poised to aid historical research on Mississippi and the U.S. Congress.

The Mississippi Members of Congress Database, now available to the public online, brings together information from a variety of sources concerning the 159 men who have represented the state in the U.S. Congress as territorial delegates, representatives and senators. In addition to a roster, detailed information is available concerning these politicians' careers, including party affiliation, years of service, committee memberships, leadership positions, congressional districts, and the location and size of congressional collections.

The database is designed for faceted searching (for example, creating a list of all Democratic senators serving between 1905 and 1930). Or, viewers can simply browse the entire list, observing the longevity and power accumulated by many of the Mississippians who occupied seats in the U.S. Senate and House. The database also helps identify where collections are located and whether or not that information is open to the public.

"The beauty of the database is that it pulls all these facts together in one place in order to help researchers identify collections they might want to examine," said Leigh McWhite, political papers

archivist and supervisor of the project. "Although other national databases exist on members of congress and their collections, I knew their information with regards to Mississippi's collections is incomplete and lacking certain types of essential data."

One of the more innovative features of the database is a historical map set of Mississippi's congressional districts, which enables users to observe the changing boundaries of these districts from 1817 to present day. This allows researchers interested in specific locations to use the maps and the database information to determine which congressman represented a specific community at a certain time.

Although McWhite initiated work on the project, the final product is the result of a team effort. Web services librarian Debra Riley-Huff played a critical role by building both the database and the website. Former library assistant James Kelleway created the historical maps, and senior library assistant Stephanie McKnight helped to compile images of the former congressmen.

McWhite hopes this new research tool will enhance research on the



state's political history and the use of congressional collections at Ole Miss and elsewhere.

"The potential for research is amazingly vast," she said. "Just think of all the different aspects of life the federal government participates in: everything from rural electrification and disaster relief after floods and hurricanes to food purity regulations and insurgent threats. Congress plays an essential role in all of these functions."

To view the Mississippi Members of Congress Database online, visit: http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/exhibit/ms-members-congress/



Relay for Life

The University Libraries made a strong showing in the 2011 Relay for Life. As the only faculty/staff team, participants raised more than \$1,800 through individual fundraising and team-sponsored events—earning them third place in overall fundraising.

"I hope our participation will encourage other departments on campus to join in the fight against cancer through Relay for Life," said Pam Williamson, curator of visual collections, assistant professor and team captain.



Libraries' Wish List

SMART Podium

The SMART Podium will help create compelling lectures during library instruction sessions by bringing interactivity to materials. The SMART Podium projects the instructor's computer screen onto a large screen for students to see while the librarian interacts with the content via the interactive display. Connected to a computer and projector, the SMART podium enables the instructor to engage students by highlighting key concepts, writing notes over presentations, accessing websites or multimedia files.

Cost: \$1,500

Group collaboration room technology

The library currently houses three highly used rooms where students employ computers and large-screen televisions to work together on spreadsheets, presentations and other documents. The acquisition of three more large LCD televisions and three more computers would allow the library to double the number of group collaboration rooms available.

Cost: \$2,000 per room

Disc-repair machines

A scratch or abrasion can render a CD or DVD useless. With specialized equipment, however, damaged discs may be repairable. Disc-repair machines, such as the VMI 3500 Buffer from Venmill Industries, would keep the library from needing to purchase replacement copies for every scratched disc. Many libraries also offer disc-repair services to their patrons, for a small fee, for cleaning and personal copies of films and video games.

Cost: \$1,500-\$2,600

