Gifts of American Literature and Culture Enrich Hoole Special Collections Library

In the summer of 2005, the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library received two exciting gifts of rare materials from an anonymous donor. One collection, part of a continuing gift, focuses on American literature and culture, primarily from 1800 to 2000. The second collection, best described as “the working library of an English professor,” reflects the ongoing research interests of a scholarly career.

Among the many treasures in these collections are several first and early editions by Richard Wright, Willa Cather, Edith Wharton, and John O’Hara. A significant sub-collection of works by turn-of-the-20th-century poet George Cabot Lodge is part of this gift. The Lodge materials include first editions of nearly all of his works, as well as manuscript materials and photographs pertaining to Lodge, his family, and his work. Also included is correspondence from Lodge’s three children: former U.S. senator and vice presidential candidate Henry Cabot Lodge; former governor and ambassador John Davis Lodge; and Elizabeth [Lodge], Baroness de Streel, aide to the Queen of Belgium. Among the published works is a first edition of Lodge’s first book, *The Song of the Wave* (Scribner, 1898), and a first edition of *The Great Adventure* (Houghton Mifflin, 1905), presented to Henry Wilhelm Wilkinson in honor of Joseph Trumbull Stickney, a Harvard classmate of Lodge and Wilkinson. The copy includes Wilkinson’s bookplate, a photograph of Stickney pasted opposite a section of poems Lodge wrote in his memory, and a three-page letter from Lodge’s widow Elizabeth, thanking Wilkinson for his letter of condolence.

These books will be of great interest to students, scholars, and others, and are a welcome addition to the Rare Books Collection of the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman
public and outreach services coordinator,
W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library
University Libraries' Fall 2005 Lecture Series

The University Libraries Lecture Series, sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Lakey Tolbert, for fall 2005 has an exciting lineup of both local and national authors. The season has kicked off with a book talk on a subject very close to many Alabamians’ hearts—Hank Williams. Paul Hemphill, Alabama native and renowned author of a new book, Lovesick Blues: The Life of Hank Williams (Viking Press, 2005), was on hand to talk about the famous Alabama musician. The event was held at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library on September 28.

On September 29, Andy Duncan, editor and author of science fiction and other works, discussed his newly published Alabama Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Pequot Press, 2005).

Also in Gorgas Library, on Thursday, October 20, at 4 p.m., Stephen Tomlinson, UA professor, College of Education, discussed his recently published book Head Masters: Phrenology, Secular Education, and Nineteenth-Century Social Thought. (University of Alabama Press, 2005).

Our fourth speaker in the Fall series will be Daniel Wallace, noted author of several novels, including Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions (Algonquin Books, 1998), which was made into a major motion picture. This event, co-sponsored by New College, will be an evening program, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, in Gorgas Library.

Finally, at 4 p.m. on December 5, just in time for Christmas gift purchases, Frank Stitt, the James Beard Award-winning chef and owner of the Highlands Bar and Grill and Bottega restaurants, will be here to discuss his book Frank Stitt's Southern Table: Recipes and Gracious Traditions from Highlands Bar and Grill (Artisan, 2004). The talk will be held on the second floor of Gorgas Library.

Books by the featured author will be available for purchase at each event.
Libraries Acquire Confederate Imprints and Other Civil War-Related Materials

Thanks to the support of the Library Leadership Board, the University Libraries has recently acquired three Confederate imprints, items published in the states forming the Confederacy during the period 1861 to early 1865, and two other very special Civil War-related items. Two of these items were published in Alabama during the war. The earliest of these is *Ordinances and Constitution of the State of Alabama, With the Constitution of the Provisional Government and of the Confederate States of America*, published in Montgomery in 1861. The other is Joseph Wheeler’s *Revised System of Cavalry Tactics, for the Use of the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, C.S.A.*, written by an Alabama general who served as the Chief of Cavalry of the Army of Tennessee and published in Mobile in 1863 by S. H. Goetzel.

A volume with a particularly interesting publishing history is *A Geography for Beginners*, by Rev. K. J. Stewart. Though the title page states that it was published in Richmond by J. W. Randolph in 1864, and it is often considered a Confederate imprint, Randolph had the book printed in England and run through the blockade at a time when paper and other printing supplies in the Confederacy made the production of a book of this quality impossible. A later work, which addresses the work of chemists in the Civil War, is Otto Eisenschiml’s *The Chemist in Three Wars. A Paper Read Before the American Institute of Chemists at Chicago, September 18, 1942.* In this paper the author addresses the work of Josiah Gorgas, Confederate Chief of Ordnance, and that of John W. Mallet, a faculty member at the University of Alabama who directed Confederate laboratories producing gun powder and other materials.

The unique item among these treasures is a letter from Josiah Gorgas. This letter, dated July 23, 1861, and addressed to Governor John Letcher of Virginia, was written three weeks after Gorgas became Chief of Ordnance for the Confederacy. Gorgas was at this time having difficulty with Virginia authorities. In this letter, he requests that the governor order the state’s chief of ordnance to recognize Gorgas’s authority and to cooperate in an inventory of the state’s arsenals and armories. Gorgas, who had married a daughter of Alabama governor John Gayle, later served as president of the University of Alabama. His papers are held at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, where the above materials will also be held.

Clark E. Center, Jr.
curator and head,
W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library
STUDENTS ENJOY INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMMING IN GORGAS LIBRARY

For the viewing enjoyment of the UA community, international television programming, including soccer matches, is available in a second-floor study area in Gorgas Library. This programming, operating on two televisions equipped with individual headphones, is a way to help international students feel more at home while they are at the University.

Viewers may select from six Mandarin Chinese channels featuring made-for-TV dramas, classic TV series, variety programs, broadcast news, and cartoons for children ages seven and under. A Japanese channel with Mandarin subtitles broadcasts information about Japanese fashions and trends of interest to Chinese speakers.

Five channels provide programming in South Asian languages. Featured in Hindi, Punjabi, and Gujarati are dramas, game shows, cricket matches, news, Hollywood films, and South Asian music and movies.

Of particular interest to UA students is the soccer channel, which broadcasts comprehensive coverage of international soccer, rugby, and sports news.

The international televisions in Gorgas Library are turned on during all hours that the library is open. Wireless headphones and remote controls may be checked out by students, faculty, and staff members at the nearby Circulation Services desk. For a complete listing of available international television programming, visit http://www.lib.ua.edu/tvprogramming.htm or call 348-9748.

Kate Ragsdale
planning officer

AFRICAN AMERICAN PHOTO EXHIBIT
GORGAS LIBRARY
November 10 – December 5, 2005

In November and early December, University Libraries will host, in conjunction with the UA Department of English, an exhibit of photographs of African American literary figures. Entitled “Visualizing Black Writers,” the exhibit includes photographs from the Eugene B. Redmond Collection. Professor Redmond is a poet and professor of English at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The exhibit is curated by Howard Rambsy II, also a professor of English at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

The exhibit features photographs of 17 black writers, including Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Amiri Baraka, and Gwendolyn Brooks. Over the past twenty years Professor Redmond has taken more than fifty thousand photographs of African American writers and intellectuals. Also represented in the exhibit are famous African American personalities such as Oprah Winfrey.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, November 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.

IMLS Fellows

On August 24, 2005, seven students embarked on a special master’s degree program in library and information studies at the University of Alabama. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency in Washington, DC. The three-year, $449,501 grant to the University Libraries and the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) is a part of the IMLS program Librarians for the 21st Century.

The purpose of the grant is to recruit and educate individuals with advanced degrees for a career in academic librarianship. From its inception, the project assumed complete collaboration between the two academic units. Applicants were required to have a master’s degree or a doctoral degree, or to have completed coursework towards the doctoral degree. A small group representing both the Libraries and SLIS made the final selection from the list of applicants. The students will be designated “IMLS Fellows.”

The fellows will take four classes in the fall semester and will participate in a weekly colloquium, hosted by the Libraries, on current issues in academic librarianship. Beginning in January 2006, they will continue their studies in the SLIS program while working in the Libraries for 20 hours per week. Their projects will address the Libraries’ current priorities and will build on the fellows’ educational backgrounds and interests.

The fellows will take their classes together, forming a cohort within the student body of SLIS. Later in the program they will have the opportunity to attend professional library conferences. The seven students are expected to complete their studies in December 2006.

The Libraries and SLIS welcome the following students to the IMLS Fellows program:

Naomi Gold
Jeana Hollingsworth
Deborah Lilton
Meiyolet Mendez
Cynthia Miller
Nicole Mitchell
Steven Yates

Questions concerning the IMLS grant program should be addressed to Anne Edwards, grants coordinator for the Libraries, at 205-348-2304 or aedwards@bama.ua.edu.

Anne Edwards
grants coordinator
The University Libraries, Visible and Invisible

The distinction between the physical library (a brick edifice containing book stacks, study space, on-site services, and certain amenities) and the virtual library (an aggregation of online services and digital collections available 24/7) continues to grow in the minds of our students and faculty. Yet, for librarians that distinction has all but ceased to exist. Prior to the Internet, research libraries acquired, organized, and preserved print publications. Libraries continue to do so. Today, however, some scholarly publications are not available in print form while others appear in a broad range of formats, even multimedia formats. The University of Alabama Libraries, as the University’s “primary information provider,” continue to make available the texts and services needed for study and research even though some of those texts and services do not exist in physical form. As a result, a great portion of what the Libraries provide has become dissociated from the traditional library, causing that part of the University Libraries to become “invisible.”

An excellent illustration of this point presented itself recently when a senior faculty member told me, “I don’t use the library anymore; everything I need is free on the Internet.” Our ensuing conversation revealed a common misperception. Although this faculty member did not use the library’s physical space or print collections to the extent he had earlier in his career, he did rely heavily on our libraries for his Internet access to full-text scholarly publications, historical texts, and data in machine-readable form, as well as online services. What he did not quite realize is that these scholarly works are “free” to him only because their access and download fees are fully funded by the University Libraries. Due to the convenience and seamless nature of this access, it is probable that this professor and his students use the library more intensively today than, say, ten years ago. For them, the brick edifice has dropped out of sight or become “invisible,” while in reality library-funded resources available from their desktops are consulted more often than ever.

It is true: much information on the Internet is free, but much is not. It is estimated that less than 10 percent, possibly as little as 5 percent, of Internet content supporting higher education is free. Access to the other 90 to 95 percent of information that supports teaching and learning is “free” to University of Alabama students and faculty only because the University Libraries cover the cost of access fees through a combination of outright purchase and annual subscriptions. For example, in 2004 the Libraries spent $1.5 million to provide students and faculty with “free” access, and more than $2 million thus far in 2005.

Use of these Internet-accessible resources at the Capstone continues to grow. In the past year, students and faculty have accessed them through our homepage more than 17 million times. We cannot yet measure the number of times our faculty and students bypass the Libraries’ homepage and go directly to a publisher’s website where authentication software verifies that the UA user may access information at that site free of charge because of agreements paid for by the University Libraries. It is safe to say that at least as many faculty and students go directly to a publisher’s site as to the Libraries’ homepage. We expect to have more precise numbers tracking virtual library use in the coming year.

Utilization of online resources is expanding rapidly and evolving in creative ways. The UA Libraries will collaborate with campus faculty to integrate the content that the Libraries license into course-management systems. This collaboration will provide students with course-specific information available only through the Libraries’ licensed Internet resources. These will include course readings, visual materials, and access to articles and e-books. To an ever greater degree, students will no longer need to perform separate searches in the online catalog and various indexes and bibliographies to find what they need.

As sources of information are dovetailed and increasingly made available in simplified, convenient searches from office and home computers of UA students and faculty, it is no wonder that the walls of the library seem to have melted away and disappeared from sight. However, as we prepare for participation in the University of Alabama capital campaign, it is critical that the UA community be mindful that while many of the resources necessary for study and research are available via the Internet, they are “free” only in the sense that the library has funded access to them. It is just as vital that support for these non-print texts and services continues to grow as it is that the Libraries’ more visible print collections and online services continue to be developed. A contemporary university library comprises both dimensions.

Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann
Dean of Libraries

Jim Fitts Retrospective

On Sunday, November 6, from 2 to 5 p.m., Tuscaloosa will celebrate the contributions of local architect and historic preservationist James H. Fitts III. A tour of homes designed by Mr. Fitts will highlight a career that has contributed much to the life and beauty of Tuscaloosa. Mr. Fitts has designed more than 50 residences in Tuscaloosa as well as many public and commercial buildings.

The tour consists of six homes; tickets at a cost of $20 may be purchased on the day of the tour at any of the residences, or prior to the tour at Manna Grocery or Barton’s Nursery.

The Fitts family ancestors were among the early residents of Tuscaloosa. The first James Harris Fitts was instrumental in seeing that the University had funds to rebuild after the Civil War. James Harris Fitts III has carried on the tradition of fighting for the creation and preservation of our architectural heritage.

Proceeds from the tour will support collections in architecture and preservation in several Tuscaloosa libraries.

Please join us for the tour to celebrate James H. Fitts’s contributions to our community.
University Libraries’ 2005 Annual Benefactors’ Luncheon

The University Libraries benefit greatly from the support of alumni, friends, and UA faculty and staff who give generously of their time, energy, and resources throughout each year. In 2000 the Library Leadership Board, a volunteer advisory board for the Dean of Libraries, and the University Libraries began hosting a special event once a year to thank and recognize our generous benefactors.

This spring, Rotunda Library Society members and University Libraries’ donors were invited to campus on May 20 for a luncheon featuring keynote speaker Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Approximately 80 alumni, friends, faculty, and staff gathered on the second floor of Smith Hall for the occasion, where they were welcomed by Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann, Dean of UA Libraries, and Mrs. Shirley McCrary, chair of the Library Leadership Board.

Dean Pitschmann described the exciting progress made toward our goals in our five campus libraries, and individuals whose support helped to make this progress possible were recognized. One of these particularly supportive friends, Dr. John Crowley, shared why, as a serious collector, he chose to make the University Libraries home for much of his vast literary and research collection.

As a fitting end to the festive gathering, Dr. Ed Bridges presented an intriguing talk focusing on humanity’s effort to accumulate and preserve knowledge throughout our history. He touched on many interesting points regarding the role of today’s libraries and archives in this quest for historic documentation and preservation, and shared his thoughts on how technology continues to change traditional methods of recording and preserving the written word for future generations.

A special thank-you to our donors of $5,000 or more

The University Libraries receive support in many ways and would like to thank those donors whose recent gifts to the Libraries have met or exceeded $5,000.

The Baker Foundation
Mr. John P. Case, Jr.
Dr. John W. Crowley
Mr. Daniel Jeremiah Haughton, Estate
Dr. Arthur F. Howington
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Josey
Ms. Nelle Harper Lee
Mrs. Charlotte B. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. J. Wray Pearce
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Russell
Mrs. Frances Summersell, Estate
Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Taylor, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Lakey W. Tolbert