A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

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EBSCO GIFT LARGEST EVER RECEIVED BY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

arly last December, F. Dixon Brooke, Jr., president and chief executive officer of EBSCO Industries, Inc., informed the University Libraries of his company's plan to give \$1.5 million toward the Libraries' portion of the goal of the capital campaign, *Our Students. Our Future*.

The images pictured on this page represent the types of documents that, because of the EBSCO gift, can now be digitized and made available on the Libraries' website.

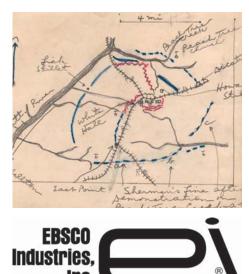


Louis A. Pitschmann, dean of libraries, who received the exciting news from Mr. Brooke, said, "EBSCO's extraordinary show of support will allow our Libraries to expand current programs and introduce critically needed new initiatives. EBSCO's gift is truly transformative."

"It is EBSCO's hope that our contribution will serve to enrich the lives of many at the University and in the state of Alabama for years to come," said Mr. Brooke. The intent of the gift, which EBSCO plans to fulfill over five years, is to support the digitization of the Libraries' unique collections, expand the Libraries' outreach, and enhance the Libraries' technical infrastructure. Dean Pitschmann pointed out, "EBSCO was founded as a library subscription agent in the 1940s and is now included in the world's four largest providers of scholarly content in digital format. Mr. Brooke and his staff are international leaders in information distribution; therefore, it is not surprising that the intent of their gift targets precisely the needs of a 21st-century academic research library."

"It is EBSCO's hope that our contribution will serve to enrich the lives of many at the University and in the state of Alabama for years to come."





Since receiving the news of the EBSCO gift, plans to best utilize the support have been underway. Clark Center, curator of the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, noted, "The Libraries' digital program has achieved a level of momentum that will be enormously enhanced by this gift. We are currently working directly with UA faculty to create a priority list of unique collections that are heavily used in undergraduate and graduate student course work and research. Digitizing these collections first will have an immediate, positive effect on faculty and student ability to access this material. At the same time, it will tremendously benefit our efforts to preserve these collections in their current condition." When digitized, these collections will be freely available on the Libraries' website. Projects to expand the Libraries' outreach and technical infrastructure are ongoing, and the EBSCO gift will speed the rate of enhancements in all areas.

The EBSCO gift is the largest single private gift ever received by the University Libraries.

Cheryl Altemara major gifts officer

BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY AND OTHER INITIATIVES

The start of each academic year heralds new beginnings and simultaneously underscores the continuity of a university's traditions. New beginnings and continuity also aptly describe the current context of the University Libraries. We continue to build print collections and provide quality on-site services while staying abreast of leading trends in research libraries nationwide.

Foremost among these trends is the growing emphasis libraries now place on creating new avenues of access to their special and



unique collections. While the news media have profiled the growing number of research libraries that have "signed with Google" to scan their vast collections of books, less coverage has been devoted to an equally important and extensive undertaking by research libraries to scan the rare and unique materials housed in their special collections: unpublished archival materials in the form of correspondence,

diaries, historical documents, and business records, as well as maps, photographs, and sound recordings.

Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the E. B. Stephens Family through their corporate arm, EBSCO, the University

New beginnings and continuity aptly describe the current context of the University Libraries. Libraries' role in this unprecedented national and international initiative is guaranteed. EBSCO's support combined with that of other donors will allow our digital program to render Hoole

Library's premier collections accessible via the Internet not only to the campus community and the residents of Alabama but also to the world at large. Under the leadership of Dr. Douglas Boyd, the Libraries' digital services program manager, the UA Libraries will become a full partner in the loosely coordinated effort to reveal the "hidden collections" of our nation's libraries and archives.

It will require many years to scan large portions of Hoole's collections, but the plan currently under refinement by Curator Clark Center, Doug Boyd, and members of the campus community calls for multiple collections to be scanned simultaneously, allowing students, faculty, and other researchers to benefit immediately from the improved access to our unique holdings. All materials will be retained in their original format after scanning.

Other initiatives include the Libraries' newly established Web Services Department and our growing support of campus distance education programs. Maryellen Allen, distance education librarian in Gorgas Library, and her colleagues are working closely with the College of Continuing Studies and other colleges to provide support to "DE" students even though they may never use the Libraries onsite or even visit the campus. UA alumnus Jason Battles returned to the Capstone in July as the Libraries' Web Services Department head after several years in the computer industry and most recently at Vanderbilt University Libraries. He and his staff are working to address, *inter alia*, the library and information needs of our "digital natives," students who possess a high comfort level with today's technology and who are not intimidated by what past generations of students would have seen as digital impediments. The Web Services Department will also seek ways to involve students in advising on how best to provide access to our ever-expanding virtual services.

But the printed word is still with us; the printed book is not going away in the foreseeable future. New Associate Dean for Collections, Dr. Mildred Jackson, is responsible for ensuring that the Libraries' information resources maintain the appropriate balance between print and digital formats. She will also oversee our participation in a national pilot project under the auspices of the Research Libraries Group to ascertain how to effectively maintain and archive the important legacy print collections lining our shelves.

These and other examples of the University Libraries' participation in national initiatives and support of campus priorities in teaching, learning, and research are described in greater detail in this issue of *Library Horizons*. Readers will see that the familiar maxim remains true: "No one ever graduated from a library, but no one ever graduated without one."

Louis A. Pitschmann dean, University Libraries UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' 2ND ANNUAL STUDENT BOOK COLLECTING CONTEST

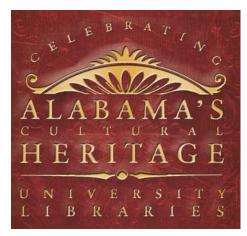
B uilding on the success of the University Libraries' 1st annual student book collecting contest in fall 2006, the 2nd annual contest will take place in the fall of 2007.

Last year's competitors submitted collections of all kinds, including topics such as Greta Garbo, Cinderella, and southern politics. The contest is a great opportunity for students to express their personal interests, encourage reading, and promote book collecting. Collections are judged not on physical size, monetary value, or rarity, but rather on creativity and content.

Submissions will be accepted August 22 - October 5, and the contest will culminate in a reception on Friday, October 19, in Gorgas 205. Winning collections will be exhibited in Gorgas Library from mid-October to mid-November 2007.

Last year's two first-place winners in the undergraduate and graduate divisions, John Codega (soccer) and James McFarland, Jr. (southern politics), went on to compete in the *Fine Books & Collections Collegiate Book Collecting Championship*, a national competition for student book collectors. More information on the contest is available at http://www.lib.ua.edu/mystuff/.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman public and outreach services coordinator W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library





CELEBRATING ALABAMA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

ou see differences in our homes, in our gardens, and on our tables. You hear differences in our speech. But did you ever stop to think why? Why would someone build a house of red sandstone in Tuscaloosa? Why do 1930s bungalows look the way they do? Why do some people have formal gardens around their houses and some people have cottage gardens? Why do some prefer cornbread dressing and others oyster dressing with their Thanksgiving turkey? What are chifforobes or verandas or valises?



This photo, c. 1918 from the cover of a small publication, The Italians: From Bisacquino to Birmingham, published c. 1980 in Birmingham, depicts Italians showing their patriotism during World War I.

It's all part of our heritage. All these things and more derive from the wonderful and diverse customs, memories, and practices of the people who came to Alabama to live and forever left their mark.

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program for the Study of Alabama's Cultural Heritage. Building on existing holdings in the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, the Libraries plan to solicit materials such as letters, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, church records, and business or professional papers as gifts or loans. Thus, Hoole Library will expand its collection of books, papers, art works, handiwork, and memorabilia representing

Alabama's cultural history and make these materials freely available online to scholars, researchers, and the general public.

A number of significant themes and topics of interest to the collection have already been identified. These include examining Alabama's cultural heritage by nationality or ethnic origin, and by topics such as the Chautauqua movement,

this rich historical tapestry by establishing a

The University Libraries want to honor



Harald Rohlig, pictured with his brother, Theophil Rohlig, emigrated from Germany to Alabama and influenced the state's musical heritage.

civil rights, monasteries, sacred harp singing, Native American tribes, and outsider art.

The University Libraries hope through this project to make sure that the history and contributions of those who have gone before us are not forgotten. For more information about the project or to make contributions, please contact Cheryl Alternara (University Libraries major gifts officer: 205-348-1416, calternar@ua.edu) or Clark Center (W.S. Hoole Special Collections curator: 205-348-0513, ccenter@ua.edu).

Mary Alice Fields assistant to the dean for special projects

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT! JEWISH LITERATURE DISCUSSION SERIES

A s recipient of a program grant sponsored by the American Library Association and Nextbook, the University Libraries will host two book discussion series centering on Jewish literature in the 2007-2008 academic year. *Let's Talk About It!* is a public program model that focuses on reading a common series of books chosen by a nationally known scholar and then discussing them in the context of a larger theme. In addition to selecting titles for each series, national scholar Jeremy Dauber has written essays to accompany the two discussion themes.

The delicate, often tortuous relationship between neighboring cultures animates works of history and fiction that comprise the fall semester theme, *Neighbors: the world next door*. These titles, given below with program dates, trace the Jewish experience from Muslim Spain to Bolshevik Russia to contemporary America:

A Journey to the End of the Millennium by A. B. Yehoshua, August 30, 2007

Red Cavalry by Isaac Babel, September 20, 2007 Neighbors by Jan T. Gross, October 18, 2007 The Assistant by Bernard Malamud, November 15, 2007 Mona in the Promised Land by Gish Jen, December 13, 2007

An exciting new form of storytelling, the graphic novel, will be the feature of the spring semester theme, *Modern marvels: Jewish adventures in the graphic novel*. Here, five Jewish artists experiment with words and pictures to tell stories of childhood, war, and desire, to conjure up lost worlds, both real and imaginary, and to contemplate history, myth, and the individual psyche. Titles for this discussion series are:

A Contract with God by Will Eisner, January 24, 2008 Maus: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman, February 18, 2008 Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Selections by Ben

Katchor, March 27, 2008 *The Quitter* by Harvey Pekar, April 17, 2008 *The Rabbi's Cat* by Joann Sfar, May 15, 2008

Dr. Steven Jacobs, who holds the Aaron Aronov Chair of Judaic

Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, will lead the discussions as local program scholar. Copies of the books will be available in the collections of the University Libraries as well as program partners Shelton State Community College Libraries, Stillman College Library, and Tuscaloosa Public Library.

All meetings will take place at 7:00 pm in room 205 of Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, and refreshments will be served.

This program is the second of its kind at the University Libraries. Both have been

initiated and coordinated by Marcia Barrett, the Libraries' selector for religious studies and philosophy.

Anne Edwards grants coordinator



Rabbi Steven Jacobs



The library at Ohio State University uses a combination of fixed collaborative workstations and movable tablet chairs.

Building Learning Commons: A Sea Change for Libraries

A ccording to *The Oxford English Dictionary*, the idea of designated "common" or "commons" areas probably originated with monastic life, but commons have been associated with colleges and universities since at least the 14th century. A commons might refer to a central location or gathering place; it might refer specifically to a place to eat such as a dining hall. But the connotation has always been the same: a commons is a place where all are welcome to gather for conversation, to eat and drink, to read and study, or just to pass the time.

Who would have guessed that this term would come to be applied to changes that are taking place in libraries all across the nation? We have come to realize that students who do best in school have comfortable places to study, have easy access to the tools for research and writing, have areas in which to collaborate on projects, and have somewhere to meet and get to know other students and faculty. Where else but in the library?

In today's world, students need the imagination of an artist and the skills of the finest artisan. They need the critical and analytical thinking of the philosopher and of the scientist. They need to function independently and collaboratively in a projectdriven workplace. And they need the freedom to take responsibility for their own learning. The University of Alabama as a whole is committed to initiatives that support student success, and the University Libraries are proud to be collaborators in bringing about this powerful transformation.

We are adding furniture that makes it easier to form comfortable, flexible study groupings. We are adding more electronic resources that can be accessed from anywhere. We are adding additional collaborative study space and more equipment to allow students to create and test presentations based on their own research. We are adding computers to library buildings that can be moved to the students' preferred study spaces. And, paradoxically, we are creating more silent study space because serious study requires serious concentration.

The learning commons is a reflection of the role libraries play in 21st-century student learning.

Mary Alice Fields assistant to the dean for special projects

Accessing Memories...One Year at a Time: The Corolla Digital Initiative

S o...where is your college yearbook? Is it sitting prominently on your bookshelf, in clear view and at arm's length? For most of us, it sits in a box, maybe in the attic, or maybe we lost track of it many years ago.

A yearbook captures a moment in time that represents, for many, fond memories of growth, friendship, excitement, independence, exploration, and, of course, education. Periodically, nostalgia leads us back to that yearbook.

The University Libraries' Digital Program has launched an initiative to digitize the University of Alabama's yearbook, *The Corolla*, and to make copies available online. Not only are we scanning the pages so that alumni can access any yearbook from



access any yearbook from anywhere in the world, we are also making the yearbooks searchable. In addition, components of these yearbooks will eventually become linkable to related projects currently under development. For example, in 1968 presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy spoke on

campus as part of the *Emphasis* program. *The Corolla* dedicates a page to this event. From this digitized page, links will lead to audio of Kennedy's speech and perhaps to other speeches given as part of the *Emphasis* program that year.

The Corolla was first published in 1893 and documents through photographs, words, and sentiment the evolution of the University of Alabama campus and aspects of student life and culture, academics, athletics, and so much more.

The Corolla will serve not only the University of Alabama family — alumni, current students, and faculty — but also the world beyond the Capstone. There is a growing scholarly interest in the history and culture of higher educational institutions, and yearbooks prove to be invaluable research tools for scholars.

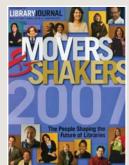
The original print copies of *The Corolla* are housed in the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library and remain available for those who wish to use the printed volumes. But for those who are far from campus, we have already scanned numerous years as part of a prototype project. These can be accessed through the Libraries' website at http://content.lib.ua.edu.



E-Resources Librarian Named Library Journal "Mover & Shaker"

ill Grogg, associate professor and electronic resources librarian for the University Libraries and adjunct instructor for the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, has been named a 2007 Library Journal "Mover & Shaker." Each year, Library Journal chooses approximately 50 librarians from across the United States to profile in a special March supplement that is sent to members of Congress, governors, and mayors nationwide as a way to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of specific librarians and to garner more financial support for librarians and libraries.

Ms. Grogg was chosen in part because of her articles and reports on the OpenURL and link resolvers. The OpenURL is a technology that





Jill Grogg

takes the user's context into account when creating links. In other words, the OpenURL framework matches a user with his or her specific library's subscriptions and then allows the user to move through articles and other research regardless of publisher, provider, or platform.

In her "Mover & Shaker" profile, Ms. Grogg says, "The power of our networked collections in the digital library should be the invisible web of links that connects researchers from one idea to the next. To ignore linking is to ignore [a library's] core purpose of putting the right resource in the right hand at the right time."

The full article about Ms. Grogg is available at http:// www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6423410.html. The complete supplement was published March 15, 2007, and is available in Gorgas Library and as a University Libraries' electronic journal subscription.

Mildred Jackson associate dean for collections

Alumni and friends of the University have the opportunity to sponsor the digitizing of specific volumes. For more information on participating in this project, contact Cheryl Altemara (University Libraries major gifts officer, 205-348-1416 or caltemar@ua.edu).

Jessica Lacher-Feldman public and outreach services coordinator

Douglas Boyd digital services program manager

NEW FACULTY APPOINTED -

r. Mildred L. Jackson was appointed associate dean for collections on June 1, 2007. Dr. Jackson holds a Ph.D. in English from Michigan State University. She received the Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award from the Library History Roundtable of the American Library Association. Her dissertation was entitled "'Do What You Can': Creating an Institution, the Ladies' Library Associations in Michigan, 1852-1900." She earned her M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan and an M.A. in English at Michigan State University.

Dr. Jackson comes to University Libraries from Florida State University where she was head of collection development at the Strozier Library. Prior to her time in Florida, she spent nine years at the Zumberge Library of Grand Valley State University in Michigan where she held positions ranging from catalog librarian and serials librarian to collection development librarian. She also has experience with special collections and archives, garnered at the Edmon Low Library of Oklahoma State University. Dr. Jackson has held teaching appointments at Grand Valley State University and East Tennessee State University. She has published extensively and is well known within the profession for her meaningful and highly relevant presentations in regional and national venues.

Jason Battles has been appointed, as of July 16, 2007, as the Web Services Department head within the University Libraries. Mr. Battles earned his M.L.S. and M.A. in history from the University of Alabama and also holds a B.A. in history and political science from Jacksonville State University. Prior to his appointment to University Libraries, Mr. Battles was the systems librarian/administrator for Vanderbilt University Libraries. He was responsible for the development, enhancement, and maintenance of many of the libraries' web database applications; establishing and maintaining guidelines for the development of new applications







Dr. Mildred Jackson

Valerie Glenn

that supported the learning and research needs of patrons; and developing an innovative site designed to provide a new approach to library services. Mr. Battles gained much of his technical expertise when he worked for Computer Sciences Corporation as a software configuration manager, UNIX system administrator, and software developer. He also has library technical experience, having worked for SIRSI Corporation, a company that develops and distributes integrated library systems.

Valerie Glenn was appointed government documents librarian on March 3, 2007. Ms. Glenn holds an M.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. in English literature from the University of Maryland, College Park. Ms. Glenn has a comprehensive background in government documents, having specialized in this area of librarianship since earning her degree. She has held posts at the University of North Texas and Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. She has served on many national committees and has chaired the Legislation Committee and Government Information Technology Committee of the Government Documents Roundtable within the American Library Association. Ms. Glenn has made presentations on both the state and national levels that have educated other librarians and information professionals in the proper use and extensive breadth of government documents within their facilities.

Angela Wright human resources officer

LIBRARY STAFF SHOW INNOVATIVE SPIRIT

The latest project supported by the Libraries' internal innovation grant is a cost-savings endeavor proposed and carried out by three library support staff. Eloise Griffin and Barry Sartain of the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering and Bethany Imms of the Catalog Department designed a process for materials that include accompanying media such as CDs and DVDs that not only improves access and ease of circulation for the patron, but also saves time, space, and money for the Libraries. The current procedure for such materials is to place the book or journal on the open shelves and the accompanying media at the Circulation Desk. When a patron wishes to check out the book, the media must be retrieved and checked out separately. The patron cannot view the media before taking the book to the Circulation Desk. This project insures that the patron can browse the shelves and review the printed and media items together, without seeking assistance from staff. A further advantage of this system is that the combined package of material can be returned to a library book drop. The pilot is being conducted as a joint effort of the Catalog Department and

Rodgers Library.

The project is almost complete and is expected to result in a very successful experiment with implications for similar materials in other libraries in the future. Ms. Imms. Ms. Griffin, and Mr. Sartain took the project one step further and in April 2007 presented a poster session at the Alabama Library



Eloise Griffin, Barry Sartain and Bethany Imms

Association's annual convention in Mobile, Alabama. Their spirit of enterprise, motivation, and concern for patrons and the use of the Libraries' financial resources is to be highly commended.

Since 2004, the Libraries have offered an internal innovation grant opportunity for librarians and staff. All that is required is a short proposal outlining a project that complements the Libraries' priorities and a budget of up to \$2,000.

Anne Edwards grants coordinator

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Dickie Cox and Mattie Compton are pictured with family, friends, and colleagues at the Library Leadership Board's spring luncheon. Mr. Cox is seated second from the left and Ms. Compton is seated second from the right.

LLB HONORS OUSTANDING LIBRARIES' FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Each year the Library Leadership Board (LLB) honors two library employees for their outstanding service to University Libraries. Libraries' faculty and staff have the opportunity to nominate their colleagues, and a committee comprised of LLB members selects the final recipients. In April 2007, Dickie Cox, media services coordinator in the Libraries' Sanford Media Resource and Design Center, received the award for outstanding faculty member. Mattie Compton, library assistant III in the Catalog Department, received the award for outstanding staff member. Library Leadership Board member Eleanor Streit chaired the committee that selected the 2007 award recipients.

TALESE AND BRAGG JOIN LLB **AS HONORARY MEMBERS**



Gay Talese



n 2006, the Library Leadership Board decided to invite individuals with a University of Alabama connection, who had also achieved fame and success in their profession, to join the Board. The Board's first invitation was extended to Gay Talese, a 1953 alumnus and journalist who has written for The New York Times, Esquire, The New Yorker and other national publications while authoring eleven books. The Board next invited Rick Bragg, a current UA writing professor, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, and author of numerous books. Both invitations were enthusiastically accepted. Dean Louis Pitschmann commented, "On behalf of the Library Leadership Board, we could not be more pleased to have the names of Gay Talese and Rick Bragg associated with the University Libraries."

Rick Bragg

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP BOARD CONTINUES TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' MISSION

n 1999, a group of alumni who were passionate about the University Libraries and who had worked to raise funds for the Libraries during The Campaign for Alabama, formed the Library

Leadership Board (LLB). The Board has remained strong, and today it serves as an advisory body to the dean of libraries while continuing to work as an advocate for the Libraries with both campus administrators and UA alumni.

Currently, there are 40 LLB members from around the Southeast working diligently to keep the Libraries' interests in the forefront of the University's priorities. Under the strong leadership of immediate past chair Shirley McCrary of Mooresville and current chair Calvin J. Brown of Decatur, the Board has been extremely active over the past 14 months. For example, in April 2006



Calvin J. Brown, Library Leadership Board Chair

LLB members were the driving force behind the "Gorgeous Gorgas" celebration. The goal of the event was to bring alumni and friends into Gorgas Library so they could see firsthand its transformation into a 21st-century library. Additionally, in January of this year, the LLB made possible the purchase of the Richard Minsky Collection, an important collection of 19th- and early-20th-century publishers' bindings. The purchase will significantly enhance an existing Libraries' resource, Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books (http://bindings.ua.edu), which has experienced international use and recognition.

A current LLB project involves collaboration with the Athletics Department to raise funds for the Libraries.

COFFEE AND MCLEMORE JOIN LLB

ibrary Leadership Board members and the dean of libraries have the opportunity annually to nominate individuals for membership on the Board. In April, two new members were nominated and subsequently approved by the LLB. The new members are Victoria Larcom Coffee from Huntsville and James Hill McLemore of Montgomery. Ms. Coffee, an alumna, was nominated by board member Harold F. "Fish" Herring. James Hill McLemore was nominated by Dean Pitschmann and holds business and law degrees from the University of Alabama and currently practices with Capell & Howard, P.C.

Cheryl Altemara major gifts officer



Victoria Larcom Coffee

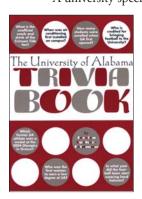


Iames Hill McLemore

New Trivia Book builds your UA IQ!

The University of Alabama Trivia Book (Hill Street Press, 2006) was a labor of love for Jessica Lacher-Feldman, associate professor and public and outreach services coordinator for the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library.

The newly published book, which features more than 650 questions (with answers) and quotations spanning more than 175 years, was researched in the rich holdings of the Hoole Library.



"A university special collections library truly is the heart and very epicenter of university history - it should be the first place to look for information about any and all that relates to that place. The Hoole Library is loaded with incredible collections and materials that reveal the past and help to chart the future of the University of Alabama. And from those holdings, it was easy to create great questions and obtain quotes for students, alums, and fans to share with each other," Lacher-Feldman said. The book also includes a number of notable quotes from some of the most evocative and

interesting members of the extended University of Alabama family, from UA's first president Alva Woods, to internationally known alumni/ae such as Gay Talese and Autherine Lucy Foster.

The new book is available at the UA Supply Store and can be ordered online from numerous sources, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million.

Marcia Barrett special collections cataloger



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER OE

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