



## University Libraries Provides Academic Software Training

By providing access to more than 150 academic software packages on more than 550 public computers and laptops, the University Libraries give students access to more high-level academic software applications than any other facility on campus. Continuing to redefine how libraries function in the 21st century, the Libraries has assumed a greater role in providing instructional support for the use of these software packages and other academic technologies used in class assignments and research projects.

To be able to offer the additional instructional support, University Libraries appointed Melissa Green as Academic Technologies Instruction Librarian in August. "Academic software has increasingly become part of coursework and research, but even the most tech-savvy students and faculty may not be able to use these advanced applications expertly without guidance," Green said. "By offering course-integrated and stand-alone instruction, creating instructional guides and tutorials, and providing one-on-one help through consultations, the Libraries support and promote new forms of research, learning, and practice."

During Fall Semester 2014, the Libraries offered introductory workshops on geospatial information systems software (ArcGIS), statistical analysis software (SAS, SPSS), and desktop publishing tools (InDesign, Publisher).

Along with Green, Science and Engineering Librarian Dr. Vincent Scalfani served as an instructor for the desktop publishing workshop. "Being able to clearly present data and ideas are crucial skills for scientists and engineers," Scalfani said.

In addition to enhancing skills, workshops offer opportunities for collaboration. The first of a series of statistical analysis workshops



presented by the Libraries and the College of Education Research Assistance Center was offered in McLure Library in October.

McLure Head Leo Lo said, "As the new head of McLure Library, my vision is to make the library an indispensable partner of the College of Education. The Introduction to SPSS workshop gave us a good start to begin collaborating with the Research Assistance Center. As it was open to the

entire campus, it also let other students and faculty know about the facilities and software we have in McLure."

Additional information about and resources to support the use of the Libraries' software packages and other academic technologies can be found on the Academic Technologies blog at <http://apps.lib.ua.edu/blogs/academic-technologies/>.

### Introduction to SPSS

Statistical Analysis Software - Dr. Sara Tomek

FRIDAY  
OCT. 10  
12-1 P.M.

McLure Education Library  
Computer Lab (Room 33)  
Registration is not required, but seating is limited.

Contact: Melissa Green, [mfgreen1@ua.edu](mailto:mfgreen1@ua.edu)

Presented by The University of Alabama Libraries and  
The College of Education Research Assistance Center

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ALABAMA  
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[www.lib.ua.edu](http://www.lib.ua.edu)



## LIBRARY HORIZONS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

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## Message From the Dean —

In past issues of *Library Horizons*, I have described a broad array of projects and services which the faculty and staff of the University Libraries have initiated. Some of these were significant enhancements to traditional library services; others have been entirely new projects demonstrating the creativity and commitment to innovation that so many of the Libraries' faculty and staff possess. The content of this volume is no different. It is gratifying to report in this issue of *Library Horizons* that the Libraries' efforts to meet the needs of our students and faculty continue with the same momentum and commitment as in the past.

Highlighted in this issue you will find some of our most recent initiatives to provide UA students and faculty with what can best be described as "the latest and the best:"

- One-on-one and group instruction in the use of some 150 academic software applications required in UA courses and research programs;
- Presentation practice rooms where students can rehearse oral presentations in a fully equipped environment that replicates the Web access, presentation software, and projection equipment used in campus classrooms;
- *BrowZine*, an app that delivers academic e-journal content to students' iPads and Android tablets.



*Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann,  
Dean of Libraries*

This issue also announces a new fund-raising initiative recently inaugurated by the Library Leadership Board. Their goal is to create a permanent endowment for the preservation of rare and one-of-a-kind paper-based holdings in Special Collections which document the history of the University and the economic development and political and social history of Alabama and the United States.

I encourage you to visit the University Libraries' Webpage ([www.lib.ua.edu](http://www.lib.ua.edu)) and visit our libraries when you are on campus. When you do, you will see why students' use of our library facilities and online resources continues to increase annually at a rate that exceeds the annual increase in enrollment.

### University of Alabama Libraries Invites Your Support

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library General Fund               | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotunda Library Gift Fund           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honor with Books Bookplate Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of Special Collections |

**If you prefer, you can donate online at:** [www.giving.ua.edu](http://www.giving.ua.edu)

**or mail your gift to:** University of Alabama Libraries

Attention: Dean Louis A. Pitschmann, Box 8701266, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

*Checks payable to The University of Alabama.*

**Thank you!**

Your gift allows us to support the University's mission of teaching and research.

For information about UA Libraries and our services and resources,

[www.lib.ua.edu](http://www.lib.ua.edu) or 205.348.7561.





## Current News and Events



Books can have damaged spines, detached boards or covers, and even damaged text blocks with loose pages. Often, a box is the easiest and most cost effective way to stabilize books suffering this type of damage. Not only does the box keep all the loose pieces together, but it also protects the book from further damage while being stored and/or handled. The photos show a custom clamshell box. Funds from the new endowment will allow the purchase of additional custom boxes.

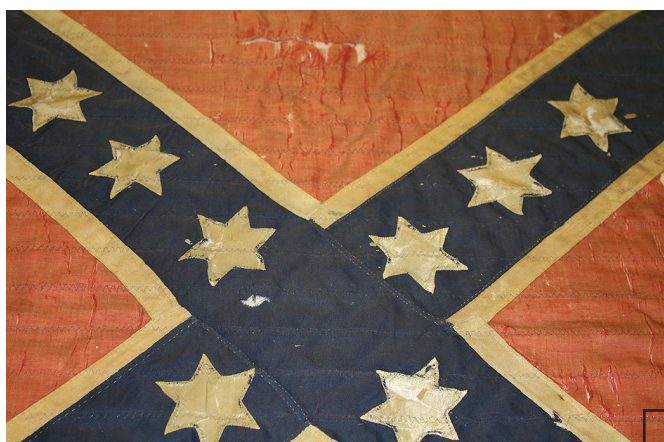
## UA Libraries Launches New Initiative to Support the Preservation of Special Collections

Have you ever thought about the thousands upon thousands of items held in University Libraries' Special Collections? Are the items protected in special containers? Are they in pristine shape or do they need restoration? What happens to the items that need repairing?

The University Libraries with support from the Library Leadership Board has recently launched an educational and fundraising initiative to support the Division of Special Collections which includes the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library and the A.S. Williams III Americana Collection.

Funds from this initiative will be used to establish an endowment to preserve and conserve materials in the collections including the history of the state and The University of Alabama. Our program is two-fold: preserving archival materials for accessibility by future researchers and to conserve or stabilize the condition of items such as unpublished diaries, maps, books, and other materials.

Preserving items is complex. Not only do printed items need to be protected but also current digital information needs to be preserved for the future. Our digital records, totaling more

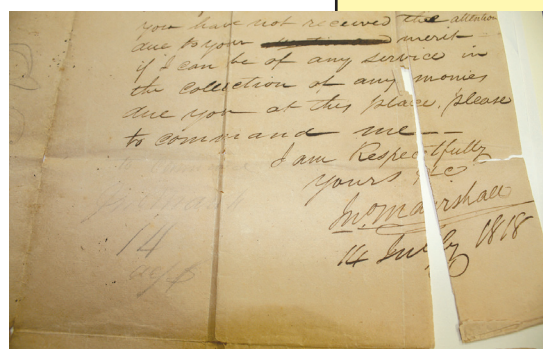


*Pictured above is the deteriorating Lumsden's Battery battle flag, one of the battle flags which flew over Co. F, Lumsden's Artillery Battery, 2nd Light Artillery Battalion, in the Civil War. The battalion was organized in Tuscaloosa in November 1861 by Captain Charles L. Lumsden.*

than 100,000, will one day need to be updated. Current digital files may be in a format that may not survive over time or be able to be retrieved or read by future scholars.

Our goal with this initiative is to protect our past in order to provide for our future students and faculty, and for scholars from the state and around the globe.

**To make a contribution or for more information about this initiative,** contact Dean Louis A. Pitschmann, 205-348-7561, [louis.pitchmann@ua.edu](mailto:louis.pitchmann@ua.edu), University of Alabama Libraries, Box 870266, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.



*This 1818 letter is just one example of many paper documents in need of repair.*



## Current News and Events

### Phyllis Todd Establishes Two Library Endowments with Gift of Property



Phyllis Jackson Todd

For many years, friends of The University of Alabama have been generous with gifts of property and timberland to the University. Many have donated property through their estate plan or will, some through a retained life estate where property is deeded to the University, but the donor has retained use of it throughout their lifetime or a specified term of years, and others have given an outright

gift of land or property to be sold and used immediately to benefit programs on campus.

Phyllis Jackson Todd decided she no longer needed rental property in Tuscaloosa she and her late husband had purchased years earlier and donated the property to UA. Todd directed that the funds generated from the sale of the property be used to create *The Mary Phyllis Jackson Todd Endowed Library Fund* and *The John Norton Todd III Memorial Endowment*.

"I feel like the library system gives the greatest opportunity for education to be promoted," Todd said of her gift. "As a child growing up in Tupelo, Mississippi, I would ride the city bus to the library and bring home eight to 10 books at a time. I love history and the collections at the Hoole (Special Collections Library), and my husband was always an avid reader."

Mrs. Todd's fund will be used to acquire unique materials to create or add to special collections and to display, promote, maintain, and preserve those collections.

Mr. Todd's fund was established in honor and support of Professor Dwight L. Eddins' 40-year teaching and research career at UA and will be used for acquisitions relating to unpublished correspondence and other papers of Southern writers; publications and other documents that present the unique and special qualities that have defined Southern culture from the 18th century to the present, with a special emphasis on Alabama materials; and publications or unpublished manuscripts and other documents that promote and advance the teaching and research interests of Eddins.

In addition to her financial support of the University Libraries, Todd is an active member of the Library Leadership Board.



L to R: Susan Tolbert and Dean Louis Pitschmann

### Tolbert Gift Makes Difference in the Classroom

University Libraries has received a wonderful gift from long-time Library Leadership Board member Susan Tolbert this fall in memory of her late husband and UA alumnus Dr. Lakey W. Tolbert.

Through Mrs. Tolbert's contribution, Dean Louis Pitschmann with input from Dr. James Mixon, history director of undergraduate studies, and Rasma Lazda-Cazers, associate professor of German, purchased eight German manuscripts to be used by the professors in their classroom teachings.

The superb reproductions are based on manuscripts from the 14th century. Having these manuscripts, the students will have a hands-on experience not found in a textbook or online. Not only will they be able to practice and learn German by reading the text, but also discover how documents were bound, touch materials used in printing, and see handwriting styles and artist's illustrations from this time period.

Mrs. Tolbert said Dr. Tolbert taught himself to read German and read every day while he walked on the treadmill. When seeing the manuscripts for the first time, she said that he would be very pleased to know that his legacy would be honored in this way.





## Lincoln Library Discovers Lincoln Letters in the Williams Americana Collection

“New Lincoln Papers Found in the Heart of Dixie” proudly declared an August 11, 2014, news release on Papers of Abraham Lincoln website, (<http://papersofabrahamlincoln.org/>).

The following article announced the addition of digitized images of two hitherto unknown Lincoln letters to the Papers’ project, which is sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. The originals of those letters are held by The University of Alabama Libraries in the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection.

News of these letters reached the Lincoln Library through the offices of several alumni of The University of Alabama and the book, *From a Love of History*, by Stephen Rowe (University of Alabama Press, 2013). Rowe’s book contains a photograph and a description of one of the letters, and Robert Ritzer, UA alumnus and professor of history at the University of West Alabama, immediately recognized its importance. He contacted Christian McWhirter, another alumnus and an editor at the Lincoln Library, who after conversations with Nancy DuPree, Williams Collections’ curator, and Mary Bess Paluzzi, associate dean of Special Collections, came to Tuscaloosa to examine the letters and to have them digitized.

The two documents, one written by Lincoln to Simon Cameron and one written by Orison Blunt, are not directly related and came into the Collection separately. The Blunt letter is a single item; the Cameron letter is one of a set of nine letters sent to Cameron by various individuals.

The Blunt document (dated July 30, 1862) concerns a straightforward item of business: the writer, firearms dealer Orison Blunt, has written to a military official to suggest that some British-made Enfield rifled muskets, seized from captured Confederate blockade runners, be turned over to Union units from Illinois who badly need weapons. On the back of the letter Lincoln wrote an endorsement urging the plan be adopted. The Cameron Letter came into the Williams Collection as part of

a set of letters addressed to Simon Cameron, a native of Pennsylvania who had a successful career in business and in politics.

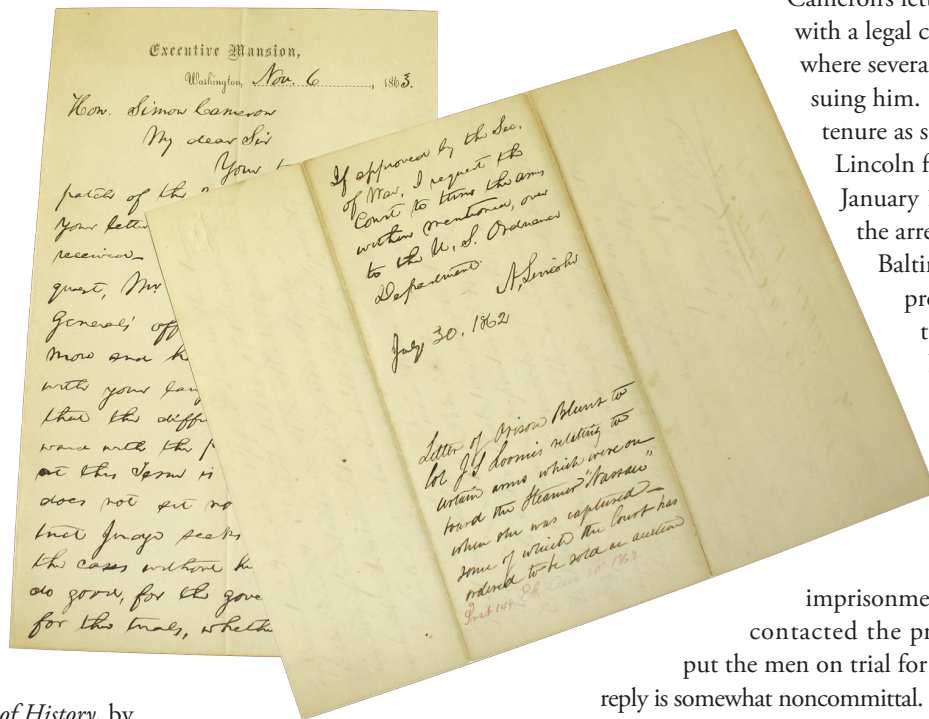
Cameron’s letter to Lincoln deals with a legal case in Baltimore, where several public officials were suing him. During Cameron’s tenure as secretary of war for Lincoln from March 1861–January 1862, he had ordered the arrest of the mayor of Baltimore and several prominent citizens on treason charges. By November 1863, the men had been released and Cameron was no longer secretary, but they were suing him for false

imprisonment. Cameron had contacted the president urging him to put the men on trial for treason. Lincoln’s reply is somewhat noncommittal. Lincoln shows himself a shrewd politician: “It might do good, for the government to argue for the trials, whether it should succeed in bringing them on or not.” As it turned out, the cases never went to trial.

Daniel Stowell, director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Project, emphasized in an interview in the *Tuscaloosa News* (August 13, 2014), that each of these letters touches on “big issues.” The munitions document, for example, written in July 1862, when the outcome of the war was still in doubt, deals with “questions of international relations, maritime law, supply woes, and supporting the authority of his own cabinet.” The Cameron letter implies spiraling complications of politics and public opinion, with Lincoln negotiating a fine line between tolerating dissent and punishing treason. Lincoln was known for saying a great deal in a few words, and certainly he accomplishes that in the Cameron letter.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln project has approximately 96,000 letters and documents in its still-growing database. Letters like the two owned by the Williams Collection are a small part of this vast collections of pieces that can be put together by researchers to form accounts that will help us to understand the past. Beyond the content, the letters themselves are material links to the past.

--Nancy DuPree, curator, A.S. Williams III Americana Collection





## Presentation Practice Rooms Open for Students and Faculty



University Libraries opened three presentation practice rooms this fall for students and faculty: two rooms in McLure Education Library and one room in Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering.

So, what is a presentation practice room? The rooms are dedicated spaces designed to allow users a quiet place to practice a presentation while recording it for later review. This capability supports students and faculty to critique their presentations and improve their content and delivery.

Each facility has a camera to capture both the presenter's upper body and display of his or her content on a screen. The presenter provides a USB storage device in the case of McLure Library or an SD card in the case of Rodgers Library for capturing the video file.

The practice rooms may be used by anyone on campus and can be reserved at the information desk in both locations.

## Sanford Media Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Students, faculty, and staff celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Lillie Florence Jones Sanford Media Center in October.

Located on the second floor of the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library, the SMC provides students with a leading-edge facility for digital media production. As a collaborative learning environment, the Center fosters high-level creative and productive output and provides for interdisciplinary learning opportunities for all UA students. The Center's computers, audio-visual hardware, software, and instruction, allows users to become producers and authors of multimedia content.

Since opening in 2004, more than 110,600 students have used the facility. In excess of 20,000 pieces of equipment have been circulated.

The Sanford Media Center was funded through a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Taylor Jr., of Demopolis, in memory of her grandmother, Lillie Florence Jones Sanford.



### Sanford Media Center staff celebrates 10th anniversary

**L to R:** Alex Hollinghead, digital media specialist; Shane Miesse, digital media specialist; Lindley Shedd, media center coordinator; and Scott Barnes, digital media specialist





## News from the Faculty and Staff

### Leo Lo New Head of McLure Education Library



**Leo Lo** was appointed head of McLure Education Library in August.

Previously, Lo was the Research & Development Librarian/Assistant Professor

at Kansas State University Libraries, where he helped plan the library's assessment strategy and provided assessment services, including survey design, ethnographic studies, statistical analysis, and focus group moderating. In addition, he researched best practices, trends, new technology, and organizational models both in and outside of the library field, and synthesized data and research results to create and develop new products/services for the library.

Lo's research interests span a broad spectrum. He has published and presented nationally and internationally on such topics as library leadership, library assessment, information literacy, instructional design, film studies, screenwriting, popular culture, and sensory science and consumer research.

An active member of the American Libraries Association (ALA) since 2007, Lo was selected as an ALA Emerging Leader in 2010. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) (2010-2013), a division of ALA, he chaired the association's Diversity Task Force (2010-2011), and served as a member on the Leadership and Management Journal Editorial Board (2011-2013). He also served as editor of a column in the journal called "New Perspectives in Leadership" (2013-2014). Currently, he is the elected chair of LLAMA's Library Organization and Management Section.

Lo received his master of library science degree from Florida State University and is nearing the end of his doctoral program at Kansas State University.

### Chris Sawula, CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow, Joins the Division of Special Collections



**Chris Sawula** joined University Libraries' Division of Special Collections this fall and is working in the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection.

Sawula has been tasked to create digital projects using the collection's significant and diverse photographic archive spanning the 19th- and 20th-century South.

The postdoctoral fellowship is offered through the Council on Library and Information Resources and seeks to help place recent doctoral graduates into academic libraries where they can bring their unique set of skills and experiences. CLIR is a nonprofit organization promoting collaboration between libraries, cultural institutions, and institutions of higher education.

Originally from Connecticut, Swaula received his doctorate in early American history at Emory University. While at Emory, his work focused on three major projects in the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship: a combination essay and mobile app commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Atlanta allowing users to explore 12 historical sites around Atlanta with interpretive text, photographs, video, and directions; Digital Atlanta, an ongoing project seeking to recreate Atlanta c. 1928 using contemporary maps, fire insurance data, census information, and historical photos; and, finally, working to build a shareable database for a journalism class on Civil Rights cold cases allowing students access to primary source documents, to conduct research based on these materials, and to write pieces of investigative journalism.



**Karen Croneis**, associate professor, McLure Education Library, retired July 31, 2014 after 15 years of service. Tom Wilson, associate dean, presented Croneis with a silver tray at her retirement celebration.



**Annie Edwards**, library assistant, retired May 31, 2014, after 25 years of service.

**Melissa Green** was appointed academic technologies instruction librarian, Gorgas Library, August 11, 2014.

**Karlie Johnson**, Gorgas Information Services, was appointed faculty on June 1, 2014.

**Michael Pearce** was named head of Gorgas Information Services on May 1, 2014.

**Robert (Bob) Pucko** was appointed manager, Networking and Computing Support, on September 15, 2014. This new technology position is designed to assist the growing network, desktop, and software support needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

**Jennifer Richardson**, library assistant, Gorgas Information Services, was awarded the Patricia S. Henderson Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2006 by family, friends, and colleagues in memory of Pat Henderson, associate dean for Collection Services. Priority is given to full-time staff members who are enrolled in or have been accepted to the School of Library and Information Studies or other graduate degree programs leading to a career in academic libraries.



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