



An Interview with Charles B. Osburn, Dean of Libraries

This past August Charles B. Osburn, dean of libraries and professor, School of Library and Information Studies, announced his resignation as dean, effective August 16, 2001. Following an administrative leave during the 2001-02 academic year, Dr. Osburn will return to teaching and writing in the library school.

During his distinguished forty-year career in higher education, twenty-one of which have been as a dean, Dr. Osburn has made a lasting contribution to librarianship. The author of four books and dozens of articles, primarily on scholarly communication and collection management, Dr. Osburn has served on the boards

of directors of the Center for Research Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) as well as on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, the Association of College and Research Libraries *Publications in Librarianship* series, and the University of Alabama Press.



Dr. Charles B. Osburn, dean of libraries.

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Dr. Osburn began his library career as humanities bibliographer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served as assistant director of university libraries for collection development at the State University of New York at Buffalo, assistant university librarian for collection management at Northwestern University, and dean and university librarian at the University of Cincinnati before assuming his current position in 1986. In addition to his leadership of University Libraries, within the School of Library and Information Studies Dr. Osburn has directed several dissertations and teaches a popular course in academic library management.

In October of this year, Dr. Osburn graciously agreed to be interviewed by *Library Horizons*.

LH: What are some highlights of your fourteen years as dean?

CBO: The first of these highlights is the simple fact that I've been here more than fourteen years, which is longer than I've been anywhere since I was a teenager. But, more specifically, some of our quasi-social events have been highlights, such as the two-millionth-volume ceremony, our spring donors' luncheons, and our semi-annual convocations. These kinds of events cause us to pause and take stock of how we are progressing as an organization.

LH: Of what accomplishments here are you most proud?

CBO: I am most proud of the faculty and staff that we have been fortunate enough to attract to the University Libraries. They are the public relations. They are the plan and its energy. They are, indeed, the service. I am proud of the spirit that enables our organization to stretch a dollar in the provision of service beyond any reasonable expectation. I am proud of the new and renovated facilities. I am proud of the level of support accorded the Libraries by the University faculty and administration.

LH: How has your tenure at UA differed from your tenure at the other universities during your long career in higher education?

CBO: I have been a library director in only two institutions—this one and the University of Cincinnati—and a directorship is by nature dif-

ferent from any other position I've held. Aside from that, the greatest difference between UA and the six other institutions where I have worked has to do with the general atmosphere here. Relative to other universities, UA is quite positive. People here tend to be cooperative and friendly and pleased to be a part of the University. That doesn't mean that everything works perfectly. What it does mean is that most people at this institution deal with the imperfections in a constructive manner, without allowing them to dominate their experience or to cause neglect of their responsibilities. This response to adversity is healthy, and it makes life on the job much better for everyone. Unfortunate conditions and events occur in every university; what makes the difference is our corporate response to them.

LH: What is the funniest thing that happened while you were here?

CBO: Nothing funny has happened here. Well, that can't really be true. The important aspect of this is that I am blessed with a considerable number of colleagues in the Libraries and the University who value the role of humor. These are people who understand that life, in general, and our responsibilities, in particular, are too serious on their own to be treated so without exception. They understand that without the punctuation of humor, our approach to the tasks at hand can only be negative, which is anathema to progress and a guarantor of unhappiness. Fatigue often derives from the negative, energy from the positive.

LH: Given enough money and time, what else would you have done?

CBO: Are you serious? Here's a priority order: raise salaries; add faculty and staff; expand both the paper and electronic collections; accelerate building and renovation plans. These changes—above all, the addition of library faculty and staff—would have made possible quite a number of enhanced or added programs of service, enabling us to move more directly toward our ideals.

LH: What do you consider the most important thing you convey to students about library administration?

CBO: Your question generously assumes that something actually is conveyed. What I try to do in my course on academic library management is emphasize the importance of people. I want students to understand that the library is not really about books and computers, but rather that it is about people and ideas. People create the serious problems and people solve them. People make plans and people implement those plans. And people are the beneficiaries of our effort. Respect for others, communication with others, and sound judgment are the underlying characteristics that render our skills and knowledge productive in the organization, thereby determining the quality of its service.

LH: What in particular are you looking forward to in retirement?

CBO: I am retiring from an academic research library career and returning to a teaching career. What I am looking forward to in this exchange are a schedule of my own making and a release from institutional responsibilities. It is not in my nature to discontinue planning and working, but I would now like to engage in them with a different focus and at my own pace.

LH: Do you have particular research interests you plan to pursue?

CBO: I do have research interests that I intend to contemplate seriously when there is time to do so in the absence of my present responsibilities. In 1979, I finished a book on the relationship between academic research and library resources from 1945 to 1975. That relationship has continued to change since then, of course, so a number of my colleagues have been encouraging me to analyze those changes as they have evolved in the last quarter of the 20th century. I may do that, but it will require some freedom of time and mind.

LH: What challenges lie ahead for University Libraries?

CBO: The principal challenges for the future of University Libraries are the same as those to be addressed by any other academic research library. First is the maintenance of a strong library faculty and staff. Competition for these

people is extremely intense now and will surely become even more so. But they are the sine qua non of a successful future. Second is the continued nurturing of understanding and support on the part of university faculty and administration. This is because the library must be much better integrated into the learning and research enterprise of the institution than it is today, if the institution is to take full advantage of the tremendous potential of the library to facilitate scholarly communication. Although considerable progress has been realized in this direction during the past decade, we have truly just scratched the surface. And let me emphasize that this is a major challenge to the University, not simply to the University Libraries.

[The editorial board of Library Horizons is indebted to Charles Osburn for his years of service, dedication, and cooperation to the excellence of this publication. —P.H.]

Rodgers Library Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

University Libraries celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering on September 28, 2000. The library, which opened on June 5, 1990, was named in honor of two long-time University of Alabama faculty members. Dr. Eric Rodgers, professor of physics, served as head of the Physics Department and later as dean of the Graduate School. Sarah Rodgers, an assistant professor in business administration, taught statistics at the University for many years. Dr. Rodgers died in 1981; Mrs. Rodgers, who died in 1998, lived to see the library dedicated. On hand for the tenth-anniversary event were the Rodgers' grandson and great-grandson, Steve Moreno and Stephen Moreno of Americus, Georgia.

Featured speaker for the event was Dr. E. O. Wilson, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, internationally renowned biologist, and Pellegrino University Research Professor at Harvard University. Dr. Roger E. Sayers, president of the University 1988-1996, introduced Wilson as one of the 20th century's most distinguished



Shown at the tenth-anniversary celebration of Rodgers Library are (left to right): Dr. Art Benke, professor, Department of Biological Sciences; Mr. John Sandy, head, Rodgers Library; and Dr. E.O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor, Harvard University.

scholars. A native of Alabama, Wilson received his undergraduate degree and master's degree in biology from The University of Alabama. From Alabama Wilson moved to Harvard University to study for the Ph.D., and since that time he has remained at Harvard as a research professor. Wilson describes himself as "an Alabamian who works up at Harvard."

In his remarks Wilson noted that the Rodgers Library, an unusually beautiful building, serves as a magnet to draw one in and to make scholarship a pleasant experience. Scientific scholarship, Wilson said, has doubled every fifteen years since the mid-17th century when the first scientific journal was published. Our culture is being transformed by science, especially by science that is technology-driven.

Wilson described changes that are developing in the authoring of scientific research. He pointed out that today the number of new discoveries per author is dropping which leads toward interdisciplinary collaboration in scientific research. Published research today, he noted, often bears a long list of authors rather than a single one. Wilson told the audience that he is currently involved in an ambitious collaborative effort—plans for the preparation of a global biodiversity map to include all of the species in the world.

Following Wilson's remarks, University of Alabama Bishop Professor of Biology, Dr. Robert G. Wetzel, presented to Wilson a copy of *Lim-*

nological Analyses, a book that Wetzel co-authored with Gene E. Likens. This textbook, now in its third edition, covers topics dealing with standing and running fresh waters. Wetzel presented a second copy of the book to John Sandy, head of Rodgers Library, for the library's collection.

Special guests recognized by the event's master of ceremonies Charles B. Osburn, dean of libraries, included the current staff of the Rodgers Library. Serving on the Rodgers Library staff are John Sandy, Kebede Gessesse, Barbara Hedges, Annette Tinker, Eloise Griffin, and Demetria Brown.

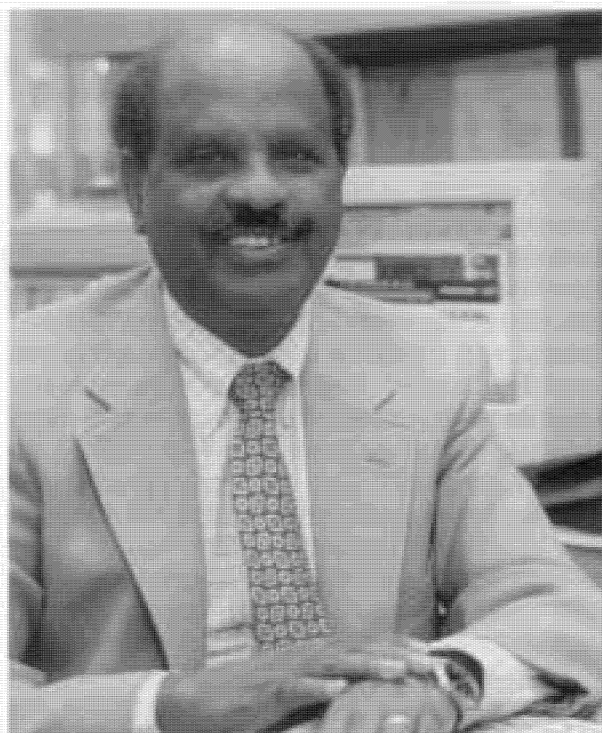
Kate W. Ragsdale, planning officer

Faculty Profile: Kebede Gessesse, Head of Public Services, Rodgers Library

Kebede Gessesse is a native of Ethiopia. After receiving a B.A. degree from Haile Sellassie I University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1972, Kebede came to the United States to study library science at Syracuse University. He received an M.S. in library science from Syracuse in 1974. During an earlier stay in the United States he earned a Diploma in Medical Librarianship from the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

With a new library degree in hand, Kebede returned to Africa to practice librarianship. He would hold several important, highly visible posts in Africa before returning to the United States again. In 1975, Kebede became deputy director of the Addis Ababa University Libraries. Though his work mainly involved administration, Kebede also managed the libraries' Public Services Division.

While growing up in a rural area in Ethiopia, Kebede became interested in agriculture, and it was an easy career move to join the International Livestock Center for Africa after four years of service at Addis Ababa University. Later, he worked for the Ministry of Domestic Trade in the Ethiopian government. In 1982, Kebede accepted a position as senior librarian/senior lecturer for the Sokoine University of



Kebede Gessesse, head of Public Services, Rodgers Library

Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania. Four years later, he moved his family to Botswana, where he served as science library coordinator/subject librarian at the University of Botswana.

By 1988, Ethiopian politics had become very unsettled and Kebede decided to continue his career in the United States. Duke University was looking for an archivist and medical librarian. Duke wanted a seasoned professional librarian, and the job was right for Kebede. After three years at Duke University, Kebede discovered Alabama when he accepted a science and engineering librarian position at The University of Alabama in 1990, a position that included broad public service responsibilities in a major science library. Later, the science library combined with the engineering library, and Kebede became head of public services for the new Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering.

Kebede has contributed much to the University. He has served on many library and university-wide committees. He has also taken an active role in the library profession, serving on significant committees of the Alabama Library

Association and the American Library Association. A prolific writer, Kebede is the author of articles published in state, national, and international journals. The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) favored his paper on current awareness services (originally published in *Library Management*) by reprinting the article in *OCLC Systems & Services*. Kebede's greatest achievement and pride is his new book, *The Black Jews of Ethiopia: the Last Exodus*, co-authored with Durrenda Onolemhemen and published by Scarecrow Press in 1998.

The world is not all libraries and work for Kebede. He loves to play tennis and was a star soccer player for the Addis Ababa University Library team in Ethiopia. As might be expected of top scholar, he is an avid reader. In his spare time Kebede is often at his computer reading political news from Ethiopia, a place he still loves and to which he may one day return.

John Sandy, head, Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering

University Libraries Subscribe to Elsevier's Digital Library

In July 2000, University Libraries made a huge step toward becoming a digital library, with the purchase of ScienceDirect electronic journals. As a participant in the ScienceDirect program, faculty and students of The University of Alabama have online desktop access to more than one million articles from 1100 electronic journals as well as unlimited access to digital full-text articles in Elsevier Science journal titles subscribed to in print by any of the participating research libraries of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL). ScienceDirect provides access to e-journals in the physical, life, and social sciences. However, most of the coverage is in chemistry, materials science, engineering and technology, physics, mathematics, computer science, earth sciences, and the biological sciences. Numerous journals in management science, pharmacology and toxicology, and clinical medicine are also found in the database.

ScienceDirect is accessed with a web browser at www.ScienceDirect.com. It is possible to view a list of journals by title, subject, or publisher and to browse journal table of contents. Titles with a green icon are available full-text to University faculty and students. Dr. Guy Caldwell, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, appreciates the immediate access of electronic journals for his research in neurobiology and genomics. For example, when he receives an e-mail alert about a journal article potentially relevant to his research, he can click on the web address of the journal in the e-mail message and link directly to the article.

Caldwell and others in his laboratory use the PubMed journal citation database from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. An Elsevier ScienceDirect icon appears on screen with each Elsevier journal citation in the results of a PubMed search. Clicking on that icon connects immediately to the article citation page in ScienceDirect. There is a link on that page to "jump to full text." This feature is also available with other web bibliographic databases, such as MathSciNet (mathematics) and Ei CompendexWeb (engineering).

Caldwell also indirectly includes ScienceDirect in his new Integrated Genetics course (BSC 497). The class meets every four weeks in a computer lab, where students use currently available bioinformatics programs utilized in modern functional genomic analysis. These include sequence homology databases, gene expression pattern databases, other genomics resources, and the PubMed literature database (with its links to ScienceDirect articles). Shelli Williams, an honors student in Caldwell's lab, will be a graduate student in January 2001. She likes the fact that the ScienceDirect journals are right there on the computer desktop. In the middle of running an experiment, Williams makes efficient use of brief waiting intervals to obtain journal articles from ScienceDirect.

The ScienceDirect database reached the one-million-articles mark in June 2000 and continues to grow. The full-text database consists mainly of articles published by Elsevier, Pergamon, North-Holland, and Excerpta Medica. The ScienceDirect platform allows institutions to provide desktop access to a full three- to five-year

collection of articles, depending upon the journal.

A subscription to ScienceDirect also includes unlimited use of the ScienceDirect Abstracts database for no additional charge. ScienceDirect Abstracts contains nearly two million records, providing access to five years' worth of abstracts (1.8 million) from over 2,300 scientific journals. This group of abstracts from some of the frequently cited journals in science, technology, and medicine is designed as a starting point for research and navigation through the ScienceDirect Articles database. ScienceDirect Abstracts includes journals not published by Elsevier Science.

In the future, University faculty and students will be able to download other articles from journals in the ScienceDirect database (titles not subscribed to by NAAL libraries) using a document delivery program. Librarians at the Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering will give instruction sessions on the use of ScienceDirect now as well as later when the additional features are made available.

Barbara Hedges, reference librarian, Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering

WorldCat Adds Internet Resources

Frustrated by 'Net searching? Do you ever wish for an easier way to find Internet resources which relate to your classes or other interests? If so, you may want to keep an eye on the online resource called WorldCat. Long used by libraries for cooperative cataloging of books, serials, audio-visual materials, music scores, and maps, WorldCat has expanded in recent years to include computer files and mixed-media resources owned or subscribed to by libraries.

WorldCat's newest addition, however, is access to Internet resources through a project call CORC, the Cooperative Online Resource catalog. As contributing libraries identify stable and useful Internet sites, they have the option of cataloging these sites, complete with subject descriptors, notes and call numbers, and adding them to a CORC database which can then be

searched through WorldCat and, optionally, incorporated into the library's own catalog.

If you would like to try this new feature from on campus, go to University Libraries home page at www.lib.ua.edu, click on "Databases", and scroll down to click on "World Cat." Choose "Advanced Searching" in the left column and do a search, for example on Matisse or on protein research, and limit the search to Internet Resources. Internet links are in the access field of an individual record. As is true of electronic resources in general, full access to some Internet sites is only available by subscription, but many sites identified through WorldCat are free.

WorldCat is available to University Libraries through the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), funded by the state legislature beginning in October 1999. Alabama residents may also access the AVL databases from home by getting an AVL card from their local public library. Click on "Home Access" to sign in at www.avl.lib.us.

Mary Alice Fields, music librarian

Building Bridges: A Link between Special Collections and the CSS *Alabama* Association

In August 2000, Oliver Semmes III, descendant of CSS *Alabama* captain Raphael Semmes and board member of the CSS *Alabama* Association (USA), contacted the William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library to request permission to create a link to the Hoole website from their own. The association also requested the use of images from the Hoole collections of the CSS *Alabama* crew on their website. The requests were viewed as a unique opportunity for both agencies and were duly granted.

The CSS *Alabama* Association (USA) was founded in 1999 as an organization that works with the CSS *Alabama* Association in France to preserve the history of the CSS *Alabama* and to raise funds for the recovery of the wreck. The famed *Alabama* cruised the Atlantic, rounded

Africa, and visited Southeast Asia before the USS *Kearsarge* sank her in 1864. The ship and her adventures have been a topic of interest to historians for over a century. French artist Edouard Manet captured her beauty on canvas, and her story has been told in *National Geographic* and on the Learning Channel.

Her remains were discovered in 1984 in French territorial waters approximately seven miles off the coast of Cherbourg, France. The CSS *Alabama* Association (USA), along with the French CSS *Alabama* Association have worked tirelessly in investigating and recovering artifacts from the wreck site. The results of their efforts and additional information are available at www.css-alabama.com.

P. Toby Graham, Clark Center, and Andrea Watson created the CSS *Alabama* Digital Collection, part of the Hoole Special Collections website, as an online resource in 1996. The project, funded by the Alabama Power Foundation, allows access to digitized images and information about the famous Confederate raider. The site provides maps, digitized photographs and documents, as well as an extensive bibliography and a comprehensive teaching resource for grades K-12. This site was a groundbreaking achievement in 1996 and is accessible at www.lib.ua.edu/hoole/cssala/main.htm.

The CSS *Alabama* Digital Collection and its resources were the impetus for Semmes to contact Hoole Special Collections. By making these connections with outside agencies, the Hoole Special Collections continually gains recognition as a major special collections repository. The link from the CSS *Alabama* Association website, as well as the use of images from the Hoole Special Collections, allows for an increase in traffic to the Hoole website from France, Portugal, and all over the world.

*Jessica Lacher-Feldman, public & outreach
services coordinator, William Stanley
Hoole Special Collections Library*

Learn Effective Library Research from a Librarian

Once upon a time, the library catalog was a piece of wooden furniture, and effective library

research depended on knowing an author, title, or subject along with having time to track down a specific book or journal. Today, the information universe is infinitely more complex. The catalog in University Libraries is on a computer along with the catalogs from hundreds of other academic and research libraries around the world. There are dozens of web search engines with names like Google and Dogpile. No longer limited to controlled vocabularies like the Library of Congress subject headings, a person can type in a single word and find full-text documents on the Web. Millions of them. Zillions of them! Boolean logic ("and", "or", "not") works on some of these resources—and not on others. Then there is remembering whether to use "and", "&", or "+" with a particular database.

There is so much more information available—and, ironically, it is harder to find. Just when you think you know how to find something, it changes. The key to effective library research is in learning to adapt.

Helping students and faculty find the information they need is the job of instruction librarians. Working through the Scholarly Communication Team, these librarians offer scheduled classes on such diverse topics as the online public access catalog, search engines, EBSCOHost, and other databases. Librarians are helping English 101 students understand the complexities of library research, giving them a solid foundation for success at the University as well as skills for life-long learning. Instruction librarians and subject librarians work with teaching faculty to provide library instruction on specialized topics to upper division and graduate classes.

To find out more about how we can help you make better use of your time as a student, teacher, or researcher, please contact one of our capable instruction librarians:

Brett Spencer, Gorgas Library
(dbspence@bama.ua.edu)

Helga Visscher, McLure Library
(hvissche@bama.ua.edu)

Cheryl Ballard, Bruno Library
(cballard@bruno.cba.ua.edu)

Barbara Hedges, Rodgers Library
(bhedges@bama.ua.edu)

Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Hoole Library
(jlfeldma@bama.ua.edu)

Ann Power, library instruction coordinator
(apower@bama.ua.edu)

*Karen Cronels, associate dean for
collections and information services*

McLure Education Library Faculty/Staff Receive Sam S. May Award

Faculty and staff at the McLure Education Library, a branch of University Libraries, were awarded the Sam S. May Award at a reception in the College of Education on August 22, 2000. President Andrew Sorensen recognized the group again at The University of Alabama's Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award presentation on September 13, 2000.

The Sam F. May Commitment to Service Award is named after a former custodian in the Department of Chemistry. Sam May, an African-American who worked at the University from 1911 to 1941, learned chemistry during break time and lunch hours and eventually became a tutor to students here. All this was done during the time of Jim Crow laws and segregation in the state of Alabama and its flagship university. The award was established in May's honor to recognize departments, departmental units,



Charles Osburn (left) and John Dolly (right), dean of the College of Education, with McLure Library staff members (left to right): Lee Larkin Embry, Deborah Powell, Nancy DuPree, Benita Strnad, Helga Visscher, and Sharon Stewart.

offices, or centers that demonstrate exceptional customer service and an on-going commitment to customers. It consists of a plaque commemorating the award and a gift of \$500 for the departmental unit.

Sharon Stewart, head of the education library reported, "Customer service has been our first priority for a number of years. One of the ways we endeavor to serve our patrons is through continuous training of all staff, including student assistants. Innovative programs such as the 'video of the week' on topics such as change in the workplace, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and legal issues related to e-mail keep employees apprised of appropriate workplace behaviors."

In addition to Sharon Stewart, McLure Library faculty and staff members include Helga Visscher, reference librarian; Benita Strnad, curriculum materials librarian; and library assistants Dr. Nancy DuPree (who received the Virgil McKinley Award in December 1999 for dedicated service to The University of Alabama), Deborah Powell, Lee Larkin Embry, and Gena Taylor. This dedicated group includes employees who have been here over twenty years as well as newcomers.

*Helga Visscher, reference librarian,
McLure Education Library*

Third Annual Library Society Membership Drive Underway

Since it was formed in 1998, the Rotunda Library Society has experienced overwhelming support from alumni, University faculty, and library faculty and staff. This society to promote annual giving and raise library awareness at The University of Alabama has enjoyed an increase in membership and in giving levels. Over one-third of the members of the Rotunda Library Society are University and library faculty and staff. That is a significant endorsement of the five libraries' mission of service to University students and faculty. Gifts of any level to this support group make a difference.

The 2000-2001 solicitation is underway. The

benefit to the donor is the satisfaction of supporting one of the University's greatest treasures. The benefit to University Libraries is support for special library projects. All members are invited to the annual benefactors' luncheon in May.

Gifts to the Rotunda Library Society may be sent to the Office of Advancement Services, Box 870101. You may call (205) 348-1416 for more information or consult the web page at www.lib.ua.edu.

Margaret Willson, major gifts officer

Library Leadership Board Funds First Awards

Karen Chapman and Elizabeth Jones were named the first recipients of the Library Leadership Board Awards in May 2000. The awards will be presented annually to outstanding employees of University Libraries.

Karen Chapman, business librarian and professor in the Angelo Bruno Business Library, has been with University Libraries for over eleven years. She is described as "the consummate professional whose acumen, analytical abilities, and professional behavior have led to many accomplishments in the professional arena." Chapman has been active in the American Library Association and has served on numerous library committees. She is praised for her dedication to service and her assistance to colleagues in their



*Karen Chapman (left), faculty award winner and
Mrs. Lou Beville (right), Library Leadership Board*



Shirley McCrary, Library Leadership Board; Elizabeth Jones, staff award winner; and Donna Sorensen, chair, Library Leadership Board (left to right)

professional development. Chapman holds an M.S. in library science and an M.B.A.

Elizabeth Jones, winner of the staff award, has been employed by University Libraries since 1978. Currently she holds the position of library assistant senior in the Catalog Department. She is described as a dedicated, professional employee who is committed to quality service. Jones is active in the Libraries Support Staff Association, coordinating many of their professional development activities, and she has served as president twice. According to her nominator, "her years of experience, high degree of accuracy in her work, and her problem-solving ability contribute" to her job success.

Each recipient received a certificate and \$1000. Their names have been placed on a permanent plaque.

Margaret Wilson, major gifts officer

Library Board Adopts Fundraising Project

The Library Leadership Board at the annual meeting in May adopted the project of raising \$75,000 to catalog a significant portion of the government documents collection. The retrospective conversion project will make an excep-

tional collection in University Libraries more accessible to users who search the online catalog. This phase of the project will focus on documents published since 1976.

Because the University has an extraordinarily long, uninterrupted history of collecting government publications, our documents collection is one of the largest in the nation. The collection is a treasure for all citizens which the Library Leadership Board wants to make more accessible to researchers on campus, throughout the state, and beyond.

In the earliest years of the nation, President James Madison recognized the importance of an informed citizenry. The Federal Depository Library Program was established, and in 1859 a congressional resolution allowed representatives and senators to designate depository libraries in their states to receive government documents free of charge from the Government Printing Office. Around 1860, The University of Alabama was designated as a depository library. Under the guidance of a dedicated library faculty and staff, this collection has grown into a collection numbering over 1,730,000 pieces. It is housed in Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library and is used for research in many fields including history, political science, social work, geology, environmental management, and business.

The Library Leadership Board has officially kicked off the fundraising drive. Anyone interested in making a gift or pledge to this dynamic project may contact any board member or Margaret Wilson, major gifts officer for University Libraries, by telephone at (205) 348-1416 or via e-mail at mawilson@bama.ua.edu. Donors will be honored at the annual benefactors' luncheon in May and by the inscription of their names on a permanent plaque to be displayed in Gorgas Library.

Charles B. Osburn, dean of libraries

Library Leadership Board Adds New Members

Seven new members were added to the Library Leadership Board in May. These seven people from around the state of Alabama bring with

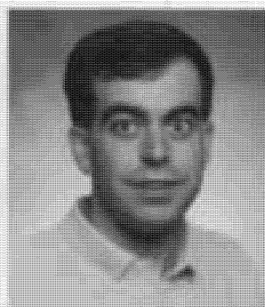
them a wealth of talents and interests as well as a commitment to University Libraries. We welcome Jan Brakefield, College of Human and Environmental Sciences; Conrad Fowler, Tuscaloosa; Harold F. Herring, Gurley, Alabama; Margaret Livingston, Birmingham; Elizabeth Melton, Tuscaloosa; Leon Sadler IV, Tuscaloosa; and Howard Tepper, Orange Beach, Alabama.

The Library Leadership Board:

Donna Sorensen, chair
 Lou Beville, Jasper
 Jan Brakefield, The University of Alabama
 Dixon Brooke, Birmingham
 Calvin Brown, Decatur
 Conrad Fowler, Tuscaloosa
 Mark Gottfried, The University of Alabama
 Harold Herring, Gurley
 Tonja Johnson, Destrehan, Louisiana
 John H. Josey, Birmingham
 Margaret Livingston, Birmingham
 Ralph Loveless, Mobile
 Shirley McCrary, Mooresville
 Elizabeth Melton, Tuscaloosa
 Charles Osburn, The University of Alabama
 Wray Pearce, Birmingham
 Lee Pike, The University of Alabama
 Luther Richardson III, Tuscaloosa
 Timothy Russell, Foley
 Leon Sadler IV, Tuscaloosa
 Howard Tepper, Orange Beach
 Margaret Wilson, The University of Alabama
Margaret Wilson, major gifts officer

Libraries Welcome New Faculty

Paul Brothers was appointed in July 2000 as a business reference librarian in the Angelo Bruno Business Library. He received the M.L.I.S. degree from The University of Alabama in May 2000 and the B.A. degree in communication studies also from The University of Alabama. Previously, Brothers



Paul Brothers

worked as a reference assistant in the Bruno Library and with Energen Resources/Alagasco in Birmingham.

Barbara Hedges joined University Libraries in April 2000 as a reference librarian in the Eric and Sarah Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering. Hedges' professional work experience includes positions as science reference librarian at Texas A&M University and, most recently, as science reference librarian/online search coordinator at North Carolina State University Libraries. She has an M.L.S. from the University of Texas at Austin, and an M.A. in history and philosophy of science from Indiana University of Bloomington.



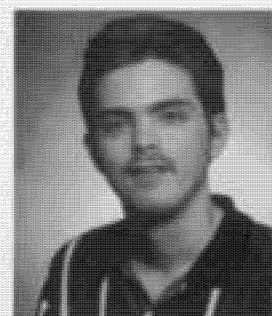
Barbara Hedges

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