



# LIBRARY HORIZONS

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## PEARCES GIVE \$1M TO LIBRARIES: "A DUTY AND A PRIVILEGE"

When J. Wray and Joan B. Pearce were thanked for their recent gift of \$1,000,000 to the University Libraries, Wray replied, "The University has meant a lot to both Joan and me, and without the education provided by the University we would not be able to give back. We believe it is our duty as well as a privilege to do so."

"Giving back" has become a habit for the Pearces. Since meeting at UA in 1965, and marrying in 1966 before either graduated, they have formed a strong and supportive partnership, reared two successful children, and made a positive difference in their hometown of Birmingham. Wray, a former marine who served in the Far East before entering UA, and Joan, a former school teacher, dedicated community volunteer, and supportive force in the Pearces' accounting firm, have a long history of giving to the University and are genuinely



J. Wray and Joan B. Pearce

committed to improving the quality of services and resources offered by the Libraries.

Joan strongly believes that "there is no other area of campus with quite the same level of responsibility to every student and faculty member as is associated with the Libraries. We wanted to do something that would make our grandchildren proud, and with this gift to the Libraries we have fulfilled that dream."

To appropriately acknowledge the Pearces' generosity, plans are underway to name a prominent area of the Amelia

Gayle Gorgas Library in their honor. Dean of Libraries Louis A. Pitschmann noted that "a gift of this magnitude is extremely important to our current and future success as the intellectual center of campus. Not only will this gift strengthen our services and resources in the future, but it immediately emphasizes the increasingly critical role libraries play in a student's education. Every student and faculty member will benefit from the Pearces' generosity and from their belief in the importance of strong libraries here at the University."

In making their gift, the Pearces chose to use the deferred charitable gift annuity option offered by the University. This option allows them to receive, if they choose, annual income from the gift for the remainder of their lives. In the meantime, they have the satisfaction of knowing that their support will one day bring tremendous financial benefit to their beloved alma mater and will continue their legacy of philanthropy.

Cheryl Altemara  
major gifts officer

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## NATIONAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS MAKE GIFT TO THE LIBRARIES

Carl and Ann Jones could have shown their support for the University simply by continuing their tireless work as chairs of the University's National Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Or they could have rested content, knowing that they had already done their part in the campaign through an extremely generous gift. But they chose instead to make an additional gift to the University, a portion of which they dedicated to the support of the University Libraries.

Dean of Libraries Louis A. Pitschmann noted the timing of the Joneses' gift, which was made following a fall meeting of the National Campaign Committee at which Calvin Brown, chair of the Libraries Capital Campaign Steering Committee, reported on the Libraries' campaign needs. Dean Pitschmann sensed "that during this meeting the Joneses' interest in the Libraries was piqued and their confidence in the Libraries as a dynamic steward for their support was confirmed. We deeply appreciate their support of the Libraries and their enthusiastic efforts to make the entire University the best it can be for all students."

The Joneses' gift of \$50,000 will support a variety of current priorities, including enhancement of the Libraries' electronic resources and technology infrastructure, and other critical services provided to students.

Cheryl Altemara  
major gifts officer



## UA LIBRARIES AND THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As the University of Alabama approaches the midway point in its Capital Campaign, the Libraries have reason to celebrate. Although we have not yet reached our goal of \$5.5 million, we have received significant donations and pledges from both old friends and new. Several of the larger gifts have ranged from \$100,000 to over a million. One of the most gratifying aspects of this outpouring of support has been the recognition from donors that strong libraries are crucial to the academic mission of the University. Calvin Brown, chair of the Libraries' Capital Campaign Steering Committee, spoke eloquently and persuasively of the Libraries' mission at the October meeting of the National Campaign Committee.

From the outside, the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library may look much the same as it did when many of our friends knew it as practically the only library on campus. While traditional print collections remain a significant part of what libraries provide, the contemporary university library contains far more than books and quiet study tables. The UA Libraries are dynamic technology-driven and user-centered environments accommodating more than 1.2 million visits on site and in excess of two million more to the Libraries' Web-based virtual collections and services.

Library use is greater today than at any time prior to or since the development of the Internet. Rather than diminishing the role of libraries, technology has reinvigorated libraries as a vital learning resource and has further strengthened them as the intellectual center of the University. Libraries remain the only centralized location

where new and emerging information resources can be combined with information in print formats in ways that contemporary higher education requires for a student to excel in the classroom and in a career.

Today's students expect their libraries to provide not only books and study space but also sophisticated learning opportunities such as technology-infused group study rooms, project-development space, digital access to our most distinctive collections, and a variety of virtual services. Further, a growing number of prospective students indicate that the library's "look and feel" may be one deciding factor in their enrollment decision.

Although libraries at the Capstone compare well to those at peer institutions, maintaining their competitive excellence and ensuring that they can support the priorities of the University will require significant ongoing investment not only in books but in new technologies, access to digital content, as well as the redesign of space and services. As the public phase of the Capital Campaign proceeds, we salute those who have so generously supported library goals, and we invite others to join the effort to enhance our resources in order that the University Libraries can better serve students and faculty and remain commensurate with the growing stature of the University.

Louis A. Pitschmann  
dean  
University Libraries



## A PASSIONATELY CREATED LIBRARY GIVEN WITH MUCH PURPOSE

When Dr. John W. Crowley and his wife Emily Smith Crowley made the move from Syracuse, New York, to Tuscaloosa in 2002, they brought along a lot of books. If you visit their home today, you will probably notice a few empty bookshelves. With a 2006 gift of more than 730 books, and previous gifts of hundreds more, the Crowleys have in four years turned large parts of their impressive collections over to the University Libraries. And they didn't do it to make more shelf space.

As a professor of English for more than thirty-five years and a current member of UA's Department of English, Dr. Crowley possesses a passionate appreciation for books. His library, which encompasses several distinct collecting areas, includes a rare first edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, an intriguing set of books on bundling, and the centerpiece of his efforts, a fine collection pertaining to alcohol and addiction studies.

Dr. Crowley's motivation for donating his lovingly compiled library "is to express gratitude to the University and to the people of Alabama for greeting us so warmly that we feel no need to ever go elsewhere." Dean of Libraries Louis A. Pitschmann noted that "John's savvy collecting sense and deep knowledge of the intricacies of the publishing world make his collections special. The material John has given the Libraries would have otherwise been unattainable. His eye for the rare and unique and his understanding of what represents completeness for a particular subject area make his gifts

invaluable. We would never have had the opportunity or the resources to acquire these items otherwise."

Dr. Crowley's alcohol and addiction materials have been assembled over two decades and represent, in his words, "an approach to this complex subject that stresses the differing perspectives and methodologies of various academic disciplines. The collection places narrative histories beside medical texts, political and moral polemics, psychological and sociological investigations, biographies and autobiographies, as well as literary expressions in fiction and poetry."

This special piece of Dr. Crowley's library was given in honor and in memory of Emily Crowley's parents and will be named "The Jeanne N. and Joseph M. Smith Collection on Alcohol and Addiction Studies." The Smiths' only son, and Emily's younger brother, Timothy Caton Smith, died at 39 as a result of a long struggle with drugs and alcohol. Both Jeanne and Joseph Smith died in 2005, just one month apart. Members of the Crowley family gathered on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at a special luncheon and press conference for the official presentation of this important new resource within the University Libraries.

Cheryl Altemara  
major gifts officer



Dr. John W. Crowley

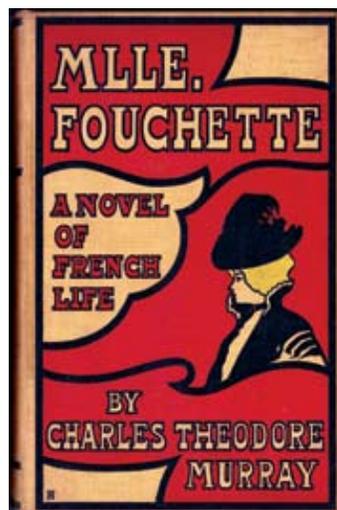


## UA LIBRARIES ACQUIRE MINSKY COLLECTION: A MAJOR COLLECTION OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' BINDINGS

In January 2007, University Libraries acquired a collection of five hundred examples of American publishers' bindings assembled by one of the nation's foremost book artists, Richard Minsky. "Purchasing the Minsky Collection was possible only because of the generosity of the Library Leadership Board. Without their support, the Libraries would have had to forgo this major acquisition," said Louis A. Pitschmann, dean of Libraries.

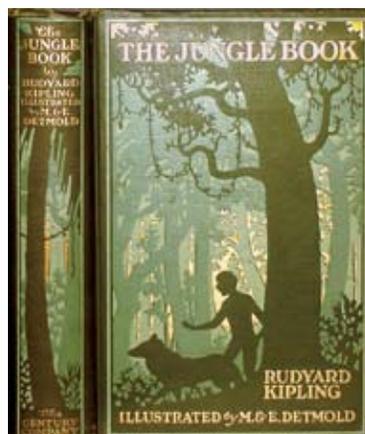
Minsky acquired these examples of binding designs specifically for the purpose of developing a catalog, *American Decorated Publishers' Bindings, 1872-1929*. The catalog is a rich work of scholarship and art, and now the source material—these five hundred nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century books—will be housed in the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library along with the first signed copy of Minsky's limited edition catalog.

This collection offers examples of the work of more than eighty known binding designers, such as Margaret Armstrong and Sarah Wyman Whitman, as well as numerous anonymous artists. The books, which reflect numerous artistic movements, including Art Nouveau, Futurism, Surrealism, and many more, will support research, teaching, and learning in University programs in the Book Arts, American Studies, Art, and Graphic Design. They will also enhance the physical holdings of the Hoole Library and the virtual holdings of the University Libraries' collaborative digital project *Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books*, or PBO ([bindings.lib.ua.edu](http://bindings.lib.ua.edu)).



their acquisition of it," said Minsky, "and the decision went to the University of Alabama. In addition to a library school with an MLIS program, it has one of the best MFA in Book Arts programs. They also have created the Publishers' Bindings Online project to promote the appreciation and study of publishers' bindings ca. 1815-1930 and are building on an existing collection strength on this subject to develop a major research collection pertaining to publishers' bindings."

The collection and the catalog are critical to the study of publishers' bindings. "In one leap Richard Minsky has put himself in the forefront of collectors and scholars of this period when each cover was a work of art," said Sue Allen, one of the world's foremost scholars of publishers' bindings. Ms. Allen also serves on the advisory committee for the PBO project and has served as an inspiration both to the PBO project participants and to Richard Minsky.

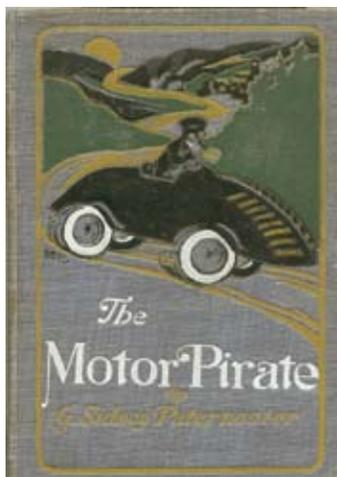
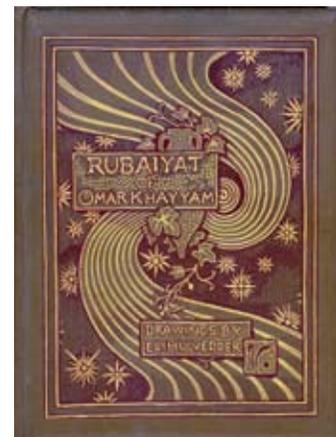


Richard Minsky will visit the University of Alabama in the coming year in conjunction with an exhibition of the collection. The books, which will be housed in the Hoole Library and eventually included in the PBO project, will benefit the entire UA community and the community at large. "For the Book Arts Program this commitment toward the study of the book and its history is yet another example

of what makes the University of Alabama a special place in the world of the art, craft, and history of the whole book," said Steve Miller, professor and coordinator of the MFA program in the Book Arts in the School of Library and Information Studies.

Dean Pitschmann summarized the value of the Minsky collection when he noted, "By acquiring the Minsky Collection, the University Libraries significantly expands its support of teaching and research interests pertaining to the books arts, material culture, and art history. This collection is truly one of the premiere collections of publishers' bindings in the United States."

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



All images © 2006 Richard Minsky

Minsky is the founder and current chair of New York City's Center for Book Arts, a pioneering institution that has mounted over 130 exhibitions to date. The Center has played a key roll in defining the book arts movement through exhibition, teaching, and publishing. Among the students and instructors at the Center for Book Arts are graduates of the University of Alabama's MFA program in the Book Arts.

Minsky expressed great pleasure in his collection's future home. "Several institutions presented compelling reasons for



## AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH POWERED BY RODGERS LIBRARY

Engineering students and faculty at UA are on a mission to improve the automobiles of tomorrow. As with Alabama's booming automotive manufacturing industry, progress is being made in many areas at UA, often with the help of the Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering.

Some people may be surprised to learn that Rodgers Library has a substantial automotive engineering collection built, in part, many years before Mercedes-Benz and Honda came to Alabama. Serious collection development related to automotive research began more than thirty years ago when the library purchased subscriptions to key automotive journals and an impressive technical report series published by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

The library's reference books and journals are important, but the SAE technical reports are at the core of the library's automotive collection. The collection consists of more than 20,000 research papers, in microfiche format, covering the full range of automotive topics, such as internal combustion engines, transmissions, fuel cell



technology, and automotive safety.

In response to the digital publishing revolution, Rodgers Library recently modernized its SAE technical report service with the acquisition of the SAE Digital Library. Using the SAE Digital Library's robust and intuitive interface, users can easily and conveniently consult the database and download technical reports from workstations in classrooms and laboratories across campus, and even remotely from home.

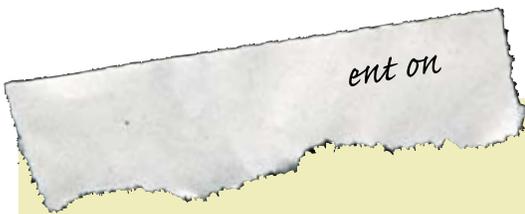
The library's move toward electronic technical reports meshes well with new ways of conducting automotive research at UA. Indeed, many success stories show how Rodgers Library's digital automotive collection promotes synergy and positively impacts users. For example, the SAE Digital Library ties in nicely with student design projects, such as building Formula SAE racing cars to compete with some 140 other vehicles designed and built by students from colleges and universities around the world.

When asked about the library's role in Formula SAE projects, a UA senior design student recently wrote, "I designed an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold for the Formula car... and without the SAE Digital Library I would have been totally lost." Another student on the design team noted that the database "tends to cut initial development time in just seeing what other people have done and how well a design performed."

The automotive collection in Rodgers Library is also used heavily for cutting-edge automotive research done by UA faculty. Professor Gary Moynihan's recent paper on the design and product optimization for automotive castings is included in the SAE Digital Library and in this way can be shared with other UA students and faculty as well as with the world's leading automotive researchers and automobile companies.

Automotive library resources come with a big price tag for the University Libraries, but the investment is very worthwhile since it drives UA automotive research to new levels and helps UA students achieve excellence. People think of a national online service that touts "Powered by Google" as an impressive venture. In similar fashion, among UA students and faculty, there is recognition that automotive research "Powered by Rodgers Library" resonates very nicely as well.

John H. Sandy  
head  
Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering



"Dr. Pitschmann, I am a third year doctoral student in mass communication at Alabama and also received my undergraduate degree in psychology here. This may be an odd email, but I just wanted you and whoever else is responsible to know how grateful I am for the university libraries. Specifically, I am very thankful for the time, energy, and money that have been spent providing easy access to digital versions of journal articles. My life as a doctoral student is hard enough, and I'm sure means a lot to have help. Being able to retrieve full-text journal articles from home in the wee hours of the morning or while traveling to conferences makes my life easier. What a wonderful service to students.

I also benefited greatly from a seminar on how to use Web of Science about a year ago. The university libraries do a good job of removing the obstacles between student and the information.

I would guess that library work is often a thankless task with few opportunities for positive patron feedback. From my perspective as a long-time UA student, you and your staff are doing a great job.

Thank you."

## NEW DATABASE BRINGS EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TO LIFE

The eighteenth century was the age of reason and the age of revolution. As America moved toward independence and the steam engine opened the way to the industrial revolution, new ideas found voice in the flourishing publishing industry of the day. Many works from this period are now available to scholars and students through the database Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), a digitized library of approximately 138,000 works published in the United Kingdom—including the colonies—in the eighteenth century.

A highly interdisciplinary collection, ECCO is arranged in categories that illustrate its breadth: History and Geography; Social Science and Fine Arts; Medicine, Science, and Technology; Literature and Language; Religion and Philosophy; Law; and General Reference. All titles are cataloged and can be identified through either the Libraries' online catalog or the ECCO database.

ECCO is the latest addition to the Libraries' growing collection of primary source databases. Other major collections include Early English Books Online (books published in the UK, 1473-1700); Evans Digital Library (American publications, 1639-1800); and American Periodical Series Online, 1740-1900. Long out of print and available to scholars only in distant rare book libraries or inconvenient microfilm collections, the texts in these digital libraries can now be accessed in the convenience of one's office or home.

In addition to being readily accessible, ECCO has the significant advantage of being fully searchable by keyword. Thus, a search for the word "Enlightenment" yields a list of all uses of the term in the ECCO texts. Each record directs the reader to the specific page or pages on which the word occurs. A search can be further narrowed by language or date, or can be limited to items including various types of visual material, such as charts, coats of arms, genealogical tables, maps, music, plans, or portraits. A "fuzzy search" option expands a search to include variant forms or spellings of a word.

Eighteenth Century Collections Online, like its counterpart Early English Books Online, is based on the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), a union catalog of primarily British and American publications issued prior to 1801. An online edition of the ESTC has recently been made freely available by the British Library and is listed on the Libraries' databases page. Even though it includes no full text, ESTC is a valuable complement to ECCO, as it includes more titles and provides at least partial subject and genre access to the collections. Working with the two databases together, a researcher can first run a genre search—e.g., "sermons" or "gallows speeches"—in ESTC to generate a list of titles, and then search the ESTC numbers in ECCO to locate the full texts of the works. ESTC plans to expand subject and genre coverage in coming years, and the information will ultimately be incorporated into ECCO as well.

With the addition of the Eighteenth Century Collections Online, the Libraries have achieved a state-of-the-art digital collection that will support the university's growing strength in early modern studies for many years to come.

Jennifer McClure  
reference librarian  
Gorgas Library



## EXTREME SEARCH OFFERS SIMULTANEOUS SEARCHING

In spring 2007, the Libraries will debut ExtremeSearch, a federated



search solution that allows simultaneous searching of the Libraries' Catalog resources and over 200 databases with a single intuitive interface. With the launch of ExtremeSearch the Libraries join other major research libraries currently providing patrons with an easy-to-use search portal to electronic resources. ExtremeSearch, powered by WebFeat, a leading federated search provider, will be accessed through the Libraries' website.

With the launch of ExtremeSearch the Libraries join other major research libraries currently providing patrons with an easy-to-use search portal to electronic resources.

The unique name, "ExtremeSearch," was chosen by patrons who cast their votes via an electronic ballot on the Libraries' website. The logo, designed and produced by Wayne Rau of the Libraries' Sanford Media Resource and

Design Center, will be used on all promotional materials, including flyers, posters, and bookmarks. Access to ExtremeSearch, gained by clicking on the logo, will be available at multiple user points throughout the Libraries' website.

Several levels of ExtremeSearch will be available: basic/quick, subject-based, and advanced. A quick search box will be prominently placed on the front page of the Libraries' website. The databases included in the quick search have been customized to correspond to the general research interests represented by each branch library. Databases have also been grouped by subject for easier discipline-specific searching; for in-depth searching, the advanced search screen displays an alphabetical listing of all databases.

Successful implementation of a federated search product requires an institution to compile and supply accurate and detailed information about its resources to the aggregator. During the planning stages, stakeholders and selectors were asked for suggestions and opinions on the functionality of ExtremeSearch. Prior to its formal introduction it will be tested and evaluated by library stakeholders and selectors and by two test groups of students.

Jill Grogg, electronic resources librarian, is heading the Libraries' WebFeat Task Force. Also taking part in the planning and implementation efforts are the task force members: Karen Chapman, Bruno Business Library; Barbara Hedges, Rodgers Library for Science and Engineering; Nancy DuPree, McLure Education Library; Debra Hill and Brenda Lewis, Office of Library Technology; Maryellen Allen, Pam Morgan, and Lisa Yuro, Gorgas Library; and Wayne Rau, Sanford Media Resource and Design Center.

Lisa Yuro  
reference librarian  
Gorgas Library



## PODCASTS ENHANCE LIBRARIES' SERIES

The University Libraries have a long-standing tradition of hosting book talks and lectures that celebrate the culture of the university, the history of the state, and the research and creative successes of the academic community. Of course, scheduling conflicts can prevent people—especially busy faculty and students—from attending these one-time events. In the fall of 2006, the Libraries began providing some new options for people on-the-go to enjoy these informative events.

The Libraries have created The University of Alabama Libraries' Lecture and Book Talk Video Series podcast, available at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/media>. The episodes can be viewed by three different means: 1) Quicktime streaming media, 2) progressive downloads, and 3) video podcast. The Quicktime streaming option allows a user to view the episode directly from the Internet in Quicktime without having to download an episode. To save an episode for later viewing, a user may decide to download the episode to a personal computer. Finally, the video podcast option allows a user to subscribe to the podcast with an aggregator such as iTunes. With the subscription, new episodes will be automatically downloaded to the user's computer as they become available.

Current episodes of the lecture series, which is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Lakey Tolbert, include several lectures presented in conjunction with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of the University. In this series, Mary Chapman Mathews, former first lady of the University, discussed her book, *A Mansion's Memories*, which is a history of the President's Mansion and its inhabitants. Dr. Robert Mellown, professor of Art History, lectured on the historic architecture on campus. Dr. Stephen Tomlinson, professor in the College of Education, talked about the University's first president Alva Woods and the problem of discipline on campus from 1831 to 1837.

This new service is yet another way that the Libraries are reaching out to the academic community. With video podcasting, viewers who missed an event can enjoy it at a later date, while those who attended in person can experience an event again or share it with a friend.

Dickie Cox  
media services coordinator



## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' SPRING 2007 LECTURES

In early January, Richard Diehl, UA professor of anthropology and author of *The Olmecs* (Thames and Hudson, 2004), presented "On the Trail of America's Oldest Writing Systems: UA Research Projects, 1990-2007." He detailed his recent discovery of one of the earliest examples of Central American writing.

On February 1, the Libraries welcomed Joey Brackner, author of *Alabama Folk Pottery* (UA Press, 2006) for a lecture and a reception to mark the opening of an exhibit of folk pottery. Music by a bluegrass string band accompanied the reception, which featured old-fashioned southern treats such as fried apple pies. A local potter demonstrated his craft during the reception, offering visitors an opportunity to try their hand at a potter's wheel.



On Thursday, February 22, Kim and Guy Caldwell, award-winning UA professors of biology, presented "Worming Out Causes and Cures to Human Brain Diseases," a discussion of their recent research.



In early March, UA author and graduate Gay Talese discussed his recently published memoir *A Writer's Life* (Knopf, 2006). During his two days on campus he also attended several creative writing classes.

On Thursday, March 29, Michael Martone, UA professor and director of the creative writing program, will discuss *Double-Wide* (Indiana University Press, 2007), a collection of his fictional works.

The spring lecture series will culminate on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. with a presentation by Vinita Wright, author of many contemplative novels, including *Dwelling Places* (Harper San Francisco, 2006).

Betty Pike  
outreach librarian

## BRUNO LIBRARY REPRESENTED IN TOP NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The Academic Business Library Directors group (ABLD) is composed of the heads of the top business libraries in the United States and Canada. Lee Pike, representing the Angelo Bruno Business Library, is a charter member of the group and has participated in its activities since its inception in 1987.

Most top business schools, such as Harvard Business School or the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, are supported by branch libraries that focus on business, similar to the Bruno Library at The University of Alabama. Other top schools, such as the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are served by a business division within a larger library. The head of the business library or director of the business information service is eligible for membership in the ABLD.

**The ABLD was formed to provide a forum for directors of academic business libraries to discuss mutual concerns and share information.**

The ABLD membership represents schools in the United States and Canada. The group limits membership to one person per school for a total of no more than fifty members. Because of the limited membership, persons seeking to join must meet certain qualifications. They must demonstrate how they can contribute to the group and how

membership in the group will benefit their organization. The relative ranking of the school is also an important factor, as are other administrative parameters such as collection budget and personnel.

Business libraries at these top schools have unique opportunities and face specialized challenges in delivering business information services in an ever-changing business school landscape. The ABLD was formed to provide a forum for directors of academic business libraries to discuss mutual concerns and share information. Interests include:

- managerial and administrative issues and trends
- cooperative initiatives to preserve and provide access to unique collections in business
- opportunities to influence development of new products and services for the academic business library market and to influence contract development with vendors
- opportunities for informal collaboration and networking

ABLD is self-governed by a six member board. There is no organizational staff nor headquarters. Each year a member business library hosts the ABLD annual meeting, with programming and events planned by the host and partners within the organization. Members may contribute to meetings through presentations, moderating sessions, etc. ABLD also operates a listserv as a ready means of sharing information and questions. Membership on the ABLD listserv is open to members only.

Meeting themes are carefully selected to cover relevant topics, such as global business, and strategies for sharing the 21<sup>st</sup> century business library. In recent years, annual meetings have been held at Dartmouth College, INSEAD Fontainebleau (France), University of Virginia, Ohio State University, and University of Iowa. Future meetings are planned for Babson College and the University of British Columbia. The University of Alabama has tentatively volunteered to host the meeting in 2009.

ABLD periodically holds a joint annual meeting with its counterpart organizations in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. In



2007 the annual meeting will be a joint conference with ABLD, the European Business School Librarians Group, and the Asia-Pacific Business School Librarians Group. The meeting will be hosted by the Copenhagen (Denmark) Business School.

Members of ABLD have a unique opportunity to see special features of other business library and business school facilities, learn about other business libraries' experiences with innovative services, and hear each year at the annual meeting about other libraries' accomplishments and the issues they face. Lee Pike has shared what he has learned with his Bruno Library colleagues as they plan the services provided locally to the Culverhouse College of Commerce.

Lee Pike  
head  
Angelo Bruno Business Library

*Comments in a Bamalog entry on  
January 16, 2007,*

*made by a  
Telecommunication and  
Film student.*

"Looking back, one of my favorite classes was my Freshman Learning Community class, Narrative and New Media. Everyday, I looked at the world a little differently after leaving the class, and I came to appreciate film and video blogging media forms in a whole new way that inspired me artistically. When it came to writing the script for our final project, I used what I had learned and made it my own so I could make a film that expressed something in a way that I connected with visually. I filmed all over the campus, using the locations I had come to love here in Tuscaloosa. One of the best parts of the project was using the R&D editing lab here on campus in the Gorgas library. They have great technology that was easy to work with and if I had any questions, I just had to ask one of the workers in the lab (who actually became pretty familiar with by the end of my two week editing period). The end result wasn't perfect, but it was a short film that taught me a lot and was what I wanted it to be."



## HOOLE LIBRARY ADDS MANUSCRIPT INFORMATION TO WEBSITE

Since May 31, 2006, Hoole Library has been providing enhanced access to its manuscript collection through the Libraries' website. In the past, patrons curious about UA manuscript collections could find little information on the Libraries' website, which instructed them only to call or email a reference archivist for more information. While some patrons learned about specific collections through indirect means, such as a citation in a published work or word of mouth, many wished to search collections online.

Until last year, such online searching was impossible, but now anyone with Internet access can search names or phrases in an online search engine to locate the Libraries' Web resources for manuscript collections. For example, a search for "Brown Hill School" will direct a patron to the University of Alabama Libraries' website, where they will see that Hoole Library has the Board of Trustees' minutes for this early-20<sup>th</sup>-century African American school in Loachapoka, Alabama.

The Brown Hill School Board of Trustees Minutes is just one of more than 1,800 discrete manuscript collections in the Hoole Library. These collections vary in size from a single-item holding to vast collections such as the John Sparkman Papers, which comprises approximately 1000 linear feet of material.

Since manuscript collections cannot be cataloged in the same way that books, maps, and other published materials can, archivists provide other means of accessing information about the collections. They create finding aids—documents that describe and enumerate the contents of a collection. Since a comprehensive finding aid is the end result of an often lengthy and labor-intensive process of arrangement and description, not all collections have full finding aids, complete with biographies, scope and content notes, box listings, etc. The Hoole Library does, however, create brief abstracts for each collection, which describe both the contents and the creator.

Working with the Office of Library Technology, Hoole Library has now mounted on its website a list of more than 900 collections. Users may follow the links under "Primary Sources from Hoole" on the Hoole Library home page to browse the collection information. The list is arranged alphabetically by title and includes an abstract and coverage dates for each collection. Hyperlinked titles lead users to the PDF version of forty finding aids. The website also includes a new page with detailed information about the components of a finding aid.

Hoole staff members are currently assessing the usefulness of the new website features and are tracking the changes in outside research patterns since the site's launch. Based on the information gathered, the library will continue to improve the website, increasing the number of collections represented and providing additional information about each collection.

Donnelly Lancaster Walton  
archival access coordinator

**Working with the Office of Library Technology, Hoole Library has now mounted on its website a list of more than 900 collections.**

## THE UA LIBRARIES ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS: THOMAS C. WILSON AND DOUGLAS A. BOYD.

Thomas C. Wilson began work in his position as the new associate dean for Library Technology on January 8, 2007. Tom earned an MLIS from the University of Michigan and a B.A. (cum laude) in history from Ohio State University. He previously held the positions of special assistant to the dean for Technology Futures (2006) and director of the Information Technology Division (2002-2006) at the University of Maryland Libraries, College Park. He was also head of Systems (1990-2002) and social sciences reference librarian (1987-1990) at the University of Houston. From 1999 to 2006 he served as the Top Technology Trends Expert for the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), a division of the American Library Association, and in 1991, 1995, and 1998 he was the recipient of the University of Houston Libraries' Special Achievement Award. He was also the leader of the first delegation of U.S. librarians to the National Library of Cuba in September 1999. Tom has been a contributing member of many national and regional organizations that have shaped the future of library technology since the early 1990s. The University Libraries are fortunate to have him as the associate dean for Library Technology; with his experience and expertise, Tom Wilson is a valuable addition to the Libraries' faculty.

Douglas A. Boyd has joined the Libraries' faculty as the new digital services program manager. Doug holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in folklore from Indiana University. Prior to coming to the University of Alabama, he most recently was the Kentucky Oral History Commission program manager. He also served as senior archivist for Oral History and Folklore Collections at the Kentucky Historical Society from 1998 to 2005. Doug has served as a professional consultant for several historical societies and preservation projects. He has produced and edited multimedia material on topics ranging from "The Stars of Ballymenone: Stories, Songs and Instrumental Music from the North of Ireland" to the "Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky." Doug's expertise and breadth of knowledge bring a strong foundation to the digitization projects of the University Libraries. The University Libraries welcome Doug Boyd as the digital services program manager and as a member of the library faculty.

Angela Wright  
human resources officer



Thomas C. Wilson



Douglas A. Boyd



## THE ALABAMA DIGITAL PRESERVATION NETWORK

The University of Alabama Libraries, in partnership with six other Alabama libraries, are fortunate to be part of a major, two-year National Leadership Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Working together as the "Alabama Digital Preservation Network," these seven partners will use a private LOCKSS network to build a low-cost statewide archival network. The Alabama Digital Preservation Network will preserve digital assets and will demonstrate a preservation and access solution for academic institutions, state agencies, and community cultural heritage organizations. Doug Boyd and Todd Hildebrand will oversee the implementation of the LOCKSS system here at the University of Alabama. Aaron Trehub, director of Library Technology at Auburn University, is the project director. Besides the University of Alabama and Auburn University, participating institutions include the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Spring Hill College, Troy University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of North Alabama.



The long-term preservation of digital assets is an essential part of digital collection building. However, in their eagerness to make content publicly available online, some digital project planners are failing to develop and implement preservation strategies. Along the Gulf Coast, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita constituted one of the worst natural disasters in the country's history. Throughout the years, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and fires have destroyed libraries and ruined collections throughout Alabama. But the aftermath of Katrina, unlike damage in earlier years, galvanized public calls for strategies to prevent such chaos after future disasters. This project proposes a LOCKSS long-term storage network as an effective solution to prevent loss of digital assets through physical damage from natural events, human intervention or error, or just the ravages of time. It addresses a pressing need for Alabama repositories to reduce the risk of physical damage while planning to manage obsolescence threats.

By the end of the two-year project, Alabama academic institutions and state agencies, as well as other cultural heritage institutions, will have an increased awareness of the importance of preserving significant digital assets. The University of Alabama is participating in the Alabama Digital Preservation Network to assure the long-term archival storage of our digital assets. As part of the grant project, UA will provide digital assets from the following collections: Publishers Bindings Online, The Cunningham Photo and Journal Collection, and The Working Lives Oral History Project. For more information regarding the University of Alabama Library's participation in the Alabama Digital Preservation Network, contact Doug Boyd, digital services program manager, at [daboyn@ua.edu](mailto:daboyn@ua.edu) or at (205) 348-0511.

Doug Boyd  
digital service program manager

## HARPER LEE HONORS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS WITH SIGNING AT HOOLE LIBRARY

For the past five years, Ms. Harper Lee has visited Tuscaloosa to take part in an event to honor the student winners of the To Kill a Mockingbird Essay Contest, a statewide competition sponsored by the University of Alabama Honors Program and supported by several other units on campus, including the University Libraries. Her visit on January 26, 2007, was no different from previous years: Ms. Lee's deep love for books, history, and Alabama shone like her smile as she stepped off the elevator



Adrienne Farris (right) a senior at Thorsby High School and statewide-winner of the "To Kill a Mockingbird" Essay Contest had the opportunity to meet the novel's noted author Harper Lee at a book-signing event for contest winners at The University of Alabama.

into the Hoole Library lobby to greet a group of proud and awe-struck high school students, each accompanied by a parent, guardian, or teacher for the event.

This year, forty-six high school students from throughout the state—all winners of the essay competition in their individual schools—visited UA for a luncheon and awards ceremony, followed by a reception in the lobby of the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library.

At the reception, Ms. Lee graciously signed copies of her book, while joking with the students and offering words of encouragement. She often asked where the students were from and took a special interest in students from the Monroeville area, noting connections with family and friends whom she has known her entire life.

Each year, the University Honors Program gives the winning essays to the Hoole Library, where they are housed for posterity. In conjunction with the event, the Library mounts an exhibition that features numerous editions of *Mockingbird*, along with rare photos and other materials relating to Harper Lee's time as a student at the University of Alabama. This year's exhibit will be on display through the Spring 2007 semester. The University Libraries are pleased to work on this project with University Honors and with the author of one of the most important books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ms. Nelle Harper Lee.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman  
public and outreach services coordinator  
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## UPCOMING SPRING 2007 EVENTS AND EXHIBITS AT HOOLE LIBRARY FOCUS ON WOMEN'S HISTORY, ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

**T**he Hoole Special Collections Library strives to offer a broad range of events and exhibits that both reflect our holdings and the interests of our patrons.

The Hoole Library will host and co-sponsor the Rose Gladney Lecture for Justice and Social Change featuring activist Joan C. Browning on Wednesday, March 21st.

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Hoole Library will co-sponsor a lecture with Lisa Dorr on flappers and life for women at the University of Alabama in the 1920s. The talk, *50% Moonshine and 50% Moonshine*, will also feature a slideshow of images from the Hoole collections and a UA women's history trivia contest. That event will take place on Wednesday, March 28th at 4:30 pm.

Exhibits on display in the Hoole lobby for Spring 2007 include selections from The Jeanne N. & Joseph M. Smith Collection on Alcohol and Addiction Studies; *The Art of Books: Publishers' Bindings and the Artistic Styles and Movements Represented and Reflected, 1815-1930*; *They Came...They Saw...They Reported: Photographs by Camille Elebash for The Graphic*; and *To Kill a Mockingbird: Rare Photos and Editions of Harper Lee's timeless novel*.

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



## LIBRARY HORIZONS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

Spring 2007, Vol. 20, No. 2

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