Partners Make It Possible

You will notice in this year’s newsletter that many of the stories at least touch on the new Learning Commons that was opened in the RBD Library earlier this year. The reason you’ll hear so much about this redesigned area of Auburn’s main library is that it represents our vision of how the library is used. It is a physical manifestation of a tremendous amount of innovation, creativity and plain hard work by everyone who works in the libraries. But libraries staff on their own did not come up with the ideas that have made the Learning Commons so popular with students, nor did it happen solely through the efforts of the libraries. It was only through partnerships with others on and off campus that this project, and many future projects, have and will come to actualization.

It began with the Student Government Association’s Academic Affairs Committee. This group of bright student leaders formed a student advisory group for the library and agreed to help us find out what today’s student needed and wanted in the library. This effort started with a survey conducted at the end of the fall semester of 2006 as students prepared for finals and were heavily using the library. The response was overwhelming and many great ideas came from this initial effort.

We found out where we were falling short, and the brief answer was in food, hours and study space. Hours could almost immediately be addressed, and the first nights of the library being open all night were established. The rest needed a bigger effort.

First stop was Auxiliary Services and a solution to student complaints of the quality and nature of food in the library. Students wanted a real coffee shop, and Auxiliary Services answered with Caribou Coffee as a vendor.

Of course a shop can’t just be dropped into the middle of a reading room. Dan King’s Facilities Division came to the rescue and built the attractive coffee shop that fits seamlessly into the library and the students enjoy.

Study space also drew heavily on the time and talents of Facilities. One issue was how the library looked. Students wanted a more airy, neutral, modern look. Facilities answered with new paint for all the walls and new carpeting. The other student issue was new collaborative learning areas. That required casting an even wider net for partners.

The vision was for a place students could go to learn together and not have to go all over campus as they needed different learning services. The answer was what was to become the Learning Commons.

Naturally Facilities’ yeoman work was involved again, but we also enlisted the enthusiastic support of the Office of Information Technology to offer students help with their computer problems, the Miller Writing Center to help with writing assignments and Study Partners to offer tutoring and the development of study skills. All

continues …
...from the dean

of these groups had been providing their services on campus, but now they agreed to join us and offer those services in the Learning Commons.

But the idea was so radical that to start with only our own limited knowledge would not have been efficient or effective. We went off campus to visit libraries all over the country. Georgia Tech had been implementing a version of what we had in mind. Tech offered us the benefit of their experience and we organized a conference to reach out even further. This conference was informative and allowed us to quickly implement the Learning Commons plan while avoiding the pitfalls others had encountered.

Also from off campus, EBSCO Industries generously donated money to build the commons.

The Learning Commons is now a reality, but Auburn University Libraries and its partners are not resting on their laurels. Already the student advisory group has been recommending new projects. The latest is a textbook loan program that would make available a copy of every textbook in the core curriculum on reserve at the library. This program will go live in the fall.

I wish to thank all our partners and the libraries staff who have done so much to make RBD Library a more useful resource for student learning. We could not have done it without you.

Power to the Students and Limiting False Alarms

When a student advisory council was asked what they wanted improved at the library, two things were high on their list: fewer false fire alarms that took time away from study and more electrical outlets to power the increasing number of laptop computers that have become essential in our digital age. When it came time to make those wishes come true, Bob Yerkey, Building Operations, Auburn University Libraries, coordinated efforts with Facilities to make them a reality.

False fire alarms have long been a problem in the RBD Library. The average alarm is triggered through dirty sensors or construction dust, and every instance of a false alarm means the entire building must be evacuated anywhere from 15 to 90 minutes as the source of the alarm is determined and reset by the fire department and the alarm company. This is a manual process that currently can only be narrowed to a quadrant of the building.

Working with Dan King, assistant vice president of Facilities, and his “project construction groups,” Yerkey got the alarm upgrade project under way in May of this year and expects to see it completed by December.

The new alarm system meets the latest fire codes and will add many new functions. Detectors will be individually addressable and programmable on the new system. That means responding personnel will know going in exactly where the alarm was activated. The system will also have self-diagnostic capabilities with the ability for detectors to report to the central monitoring location when they are becoming dirty and about to register a false alarm. Individual detectors can also be temporarily disabled in work areas where false-alarm-creating debris may be created.

Finally, the new system ties into the Auburn University alert system, which will allow for rapid warning of out-of-building emergencies, such as approaching tornadoes.

This new upgrade required major rewiring, and while wires were being pulled for the alarm system, the libraries saw the opportunity to give students the second thing they wanted: more power outlets.

This newest round of power improvements follows hard on the heels of the Learning Commons project on the second floor that saw the addition of hundreds of new outlets to facilitate student studies. This time more than 600 new outlets will be added to the third and fourth floors of RBD Library.
From the Associate Dean
for Public Services

Marcia Boosinge

This past academic year has seen the culmination of a project that has not only been close to my heart, but has also seen the expenditure of a large amount of time and money on what is probably the most significant change in the way the Ralph Brown Draughon (RBD) Library is used by students in the last five years. I am of course speaking of the completion of the new Learning Commons on the library’s second floor.

The Learning Commons is a “one-stop shopping” location that provides all the learning resources most students could wish for. It is the product of much hard work by library faculty and staff, facilities crews, student advisory groups and the cooperation of Auburn University partners that were eager to make their services available to students in the same open and immediate way in which Auburn University Libraries has always prided itself. In the coming year we are planning to extend the Learning Commons concept into the northeast corner of the second floor, repurposing and upgrading the area to give students even more opportunities for cooperative learning. Later in this newsletter you’ll learn more about the Learning Commons in Kaitlyn Parsons’ article, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Facilities Division, the Miller Writing Center/Office of University Writing, Study Partners and the Office of Information Technology for all their hard work in bringing this project to fruition. I would also like to thank EBSCO Industries for their generous contribution that helped fund the project.

For the past several months, a library-wide initiative has been under way to beta test a new discovery layer to our online library catalog system, called Catalog Beta, using VuFind open-source software. This layer has existed alongside with the standard catalog system as an alternative. Through the coming fall semester this new “Discovery Catalog” system will become the default catalog search and the classic catalog will become an alternate.

This Discovery Catalog system differs from the old system in that it uses different and additional search algorithms to find materials that are unknown to the user, much like an Internet search engine’s algorithms that return results when keywords are input. It will also have the capability to find known items within the library in the traditional manner.

Pending a successful test, the Discovery Catalog system may replace the classic system after the fall semester.

Also completed for this fall is the quiet study area that will be open only to graduate students and faculty. This area, located on the south side of the third floor facing Comer Hall, is primarily designed to be a place of individual study for 12 to 15 individuals, but shares some of the Learning Commons’ flexible furniture model to allow for collaborative learning.

In a related project, an area will be repurposed for honors students and undergraduate research fellows to work on the second floor on the north side of the library facing Samford Hall.

One final note on building improvement projects: the ongoing carpet replacement effort will be completed by the beginning of 2011 with replacement of the carpets on the fourth floor and on the ground floor in Special Collections.

RBD Library is also proud to be participating in Auburn University Provost Mazey’s common book project called “Auburn Connects.” All incoming freshmen will read Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin and the book will be an integral part of their learning experience during their first year of studies. Auburn University Libraries will sponsor a marathon reading-aloud of the book Oct. 20 - 21 at RBD Library.

Finally, I’d like to recognize the libraries’ outstanding faculty and staff who achieved a 98.6 percent participation rate in the faculty and staff campaign. Your generosity in your work and your giving is much appreciated.

Auburn University Libraries is constantly looking for ways to better assist its academic users. The coming year will see even more improvements in services, technologies, collections and facilities, and I look forward to being a part of them.
Few members of the Auburn University family would argue that the sagging economy and resulting budgetary restraints have posed challenges for maintaining the level of quality we all want for the university and its students. Equally challenging is maintaining Auburn’s status as a major research library and providing collections that serve the research and instructional needs of students and faculty.

With the libraries facing the same budgetary constraints as the rest of the university, living within our budget has demanded that we undertake our first journal cancellation project since 1999. Journals and databases, especially those in the areas of science and technology, are both heavily used and extremely expensive. Any serious effort to restrain increases in spending for journals has its heaviest impact on disciplines related to science, technology and medicine.

We set as a goal trimming the budget for journals by the same amount as we expected that budget to inflate during the next year. Given our current $5 million budget for journals, we set out to identify cancellations that would total $250,000.

Any review of journals, most of which are highly specialized, would be impossible without the advice, guidance and cooperation of faculty from all of Auburn’s colleges and schools. I’m grateful for the time expended and expertise shared by Auburn’s faculty during the journal cancellation project. We’ve identified needed cancellations without any impact on our major journal packages (for example, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, and Wiley InterScience).

We’ve also ordered almost every book requested by students or faculty and we’ve continued to receive most of the books published by university presses in the United States and Great Britain.

To give you an idea of how our budget looked during the last year, let’s imagine that the Auburn University Libraries has one dollar to spend for materials. From that dollar, we spend 69 cents for journal subscriptions, 19 cents for electronic databases, 10 cents for books, less than one cent to bind the journals we receive and maintain the bindings on the books we have, and less than one half cent to borrow journal articles and books from other libraries for faculty and students.

Because we spend two-thirds of our budget on journal subscriptions, that category deserves further analysis. In our one-dollar budget, 69 cents go to journal subscriptions. Thirty-nine of those cents pay for large packages of electronic journals from a handful of publishers. The largest packages are from ScienceDirect, SpringerLink and Wiley InterScience; costs for these packages total 34 cents. We spend only seven cents for subscriptions to paper journals.

Finally, I’d like to highlight a donation made to the libraries by the late Dr. Henry McCurley, former head of our Cataloging Department. Henry had spent much of his life reading and collecting books; he had amassed a library of more than 5,000 volumes. While many were in philosophy, where Henry’s academic training and previous teaching career focused, his library included rich collections in medieval literature, the history and culture of classical Greece and Rome, the early history of Catholicism, and many other areas. Generations of Auburn students and scholars will read and ponder books with bookplates commemorating this donation from Henry McCurley.
Three-Millionth Library Volume Reaches Back to 19th Century

Ralph Brown Draughon Library recently passed a major milestone in its collection by adding its three-millionth volume, Philip Henry Gosse’s *Entomologia Alabamenis*. But the story of this unique book on the insects of Alabama starts well before the book took its place in the stacks of RBD in 2010 – the book was written in 1838 but has never before been published.

Philip Henry Gosse was an English-born, mostly self-educated naturalist who learned to paint from his father. During eight months of 1838 in the Black Belt region of Alabama near present-day Pleasant Hill in Dallas County, Gosse extensively studied the natural history of the region and took copious notes and made many detailed watercolors of the insect and plant life of the area.

After returning to England, Gosse published his notes and sketches describing his experiences in the state. First published in a scientific journal as a series of articles, they were later published as a book called *Letters From Alabama* (1859). In his life, Gosse would write more than 40 books and 270 articles on science and religion, but his color sketchbook of paintings of Alabama insects languished unpublished.

Following Philip Henry’s death in 1888, the Gosse family loaned the sketchbook to the British Library in London. There it remained until Gary R. Mullen, professor of entomology emeritus at Auburn University, persuaded the British Library to allow a series of transparencies to be made of the pages of the book.

At her death in 2005, Auburn’s beloved Caroline Marshall Draughon (wife of tenth Auburn University president and library namesake Ralph Brown Draughon) left a bequest to the library. Dean of Auburn University Libraries, Bonnie MacEwan, decided acquisition of Gosse’s sketchbook would make the perfect use of the bequest and the ideal three-millionth volume for the RBD Library.

When attempts to buy the sketchbook from the Gosse family were declined, Dean MacEwan and Marilyn Laufer, director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art (JCSM), began working to put together a museum exhibit from the transparencies obtained by Mullen and sell the idea of publishing a first edition of the book.

Prompted by Auburn’s attempt to purchase the original sketchbook, the Gosse family had made the decision to make a gift of the book to the British Library. In turn, the British Library gave permission to allow the publication of the book using the previously made transparencies.

Bringing together Auburn University Libraries, JCSM and The University of Alabama Press, Gosse’s 172-year-old sketchbook has come to vibrant life with an original essay on the life, art and studies of Philip Henry Gosse by Mullen and Taylor D. Littleton, Mosley professor of science and humanities emeritus Auburn University. All of the notes that accompanied the sketches have also been updated with current taxonomic names.

In addition to the hardcover edition of the book, there will also be a version of the volume available online in the Auburn University Digital Library through the efforts of Aaron Trehub and Midge Coates of the Auburn University Libraries Systems Department.

Copies of Philip Henry Gosse’s *Entomologia Alabamenis* are available from local bookstores, JCSM and The University of Alabama Press for $29.95 each.
Student Input Key to Creation of Learning Commons
by Kaitlyn Parsons

The tattoo parlor didn’t make it, but many other services that students requested did. The new Learning Commons that opened in Auburn University’s Ralph Brown Draughon Library in January 2010 is a result of student collaboration with administrators to create a space designed specifically for students, by students.

The RBD is a place with which all Auburn University students and faculty are familiar - a second home for many students to meet, study, work and, occasionally during finals week, sleep. The library’s resources far surpass those of many others around the country.

Since students are the majority of people spending their time in the library, it only made sense to administrators to find out their wants and needs, and implement them. The Learning Commons resulted from a three-year plan to design a space for today’s students.

The space features 300 power outlets, movable whiteboards, 10 study group areas and 415 new seats. The Miller Writing Center, Study Partners, Office of Information Technology Help Desk and library reference services are located in the Learning Commons. Even a Caribou Coffee shop has been added, which, judging from the crowds on any given day, appears to be extremely popular with students.

“Finally, a good coffee place in the library,” said Auburn University student Carly Williams. “I spend a lot more time in the library now that I can get my fix of caffeine during study breaks!”

The Learning Commons is not an idea unique only to Auburn. Marcia Boosinger, associate dean for public services, says the plan to offer spaces constructed by utilizing user feedback has been implemented in many academic libraries throughout the nation. The schools have realized that input about how their users work and study today are imperative to meet their needs.

The process to create the Learning Commons was a long but enjoyable one, according to Dean of Auburn University Libraries, Bonnie MacEwan.

“It has been a pleasure and an honor from beginning to end,” MacEwan said. “It has truly been a team effort.”

The effort was collaborative among many different groups. MacEwan said Auburn’s students helped leaders to understand library-related needs; librarians and staff made the ideas into plans; facilities assisted in the actual build; OIT, Study Partners, and the Writing Center joined the effort; and EBSCO Industries, the provost and facilities dug into limited budgets for funding.

The result made the work all worth it, MacEwan said. “I love to walk through and see students being tutored, see them getting computer assistance at the OIT desk, see them consulting with the reference librarians, see them gathered in groups and lined up for coffee and snacks at Caribou.”

MacEwan said that in England, many citizens have “three places” that they go most often. Work and home tend to be the first two, and for adults, the third place is usually a pub. RBD Library’s goal was for the Learning Commons to be that “third place” for Auburn students to go to relax and be comfortable. That’s why the design is flexible, the furniture movable and a coffee shop is available.

For four years the library has been soliciting feedback from stakeholders about how it can better serve its users. Exercises (i.e., “Draw Your Library,” “I am a Camera” and “Where Did
You Go?”), surveys, and discussions with the Library Student Advisory Council allowed the library to gather information both formally and informally.

“Draw Your Library” was a program started in 2006 in which four or five students were selected at random every 30 minutes and given instructions to draw what their idea of a single floor of the library should look like and reflect all the services they think were necessary. The students were given pizza and drinks while they worked, and could register for an iPod for participating.

“I am a Camera” recruited random students to take pictures of and describe various aspects in their study habits such as items they take to class, what they consider high tech, where they go in the library to get help with an assignment, etc.

“Where Do You Go?” was a program designed to discover an idea of where, when and how the library is utilized. Faculty, undergraduate and graduate students were given surveys at the door of the library and asked to check off services they used. The participants were then entered to win an iPod and other prizes. A second survey was used in which large maps were placed on windows and participants would place stickers over areas they used. The feedback was successful, with 960 completed surveys turned in.

“I didn’t mind participating in the surveys,” student Payton Ely, a participant in “Where Do You Go?” said. “It took just a minute and I got the chance to win an iPod. Plus it was cool to feel like I was doing something to help.”

The results of all the programs and surveys were compiled and professional planners and Auburn’s campus partners came in for a two-day design workshop last summer and worked tirelessly to then buy necessary equipment and furnishings. The Learning Commons opened Jan. 11, 2010, the first day of spring semester. It was officially dedicated on Feb. 5.

To publicize the Learning Commons, word of mouth has done a fair amount of the work. Many students talk about the new facility.

“I love the Learning Commons,” said Auburn student Grace Seymour. “It’s so nice to have the extra space, and we definitely needed all of those group study areas. The study rooms used to fill up all the time.”

Auburn’s website, the Auburn Daily, Auburn Report, signs in the library and the dedication event have all publicized the Learning Commons. RBDpalooza, a gaming event held on March 5, was held in the Learning Commons to encourage students to visit the space.

According to library leadership, the Learning Commons is a positive facility created by the students and for the students, and the RBD Library is a better place because students had a chance to make their voices heard.

“I’m so happy to feel a part of something here at Auburn,” Ely said. “It’s great to see something that the student body created. And it’s even better that Auburn listened.”

Guest columnist Kaitlyn Parsons is a senior in public relations.
Digital Library Adds New Collections

The Auburn University Digital Library, a library-wide initiative based in the Systems Department, continues to add collections to its growing library of online content. Visit the Auburn University Digital Library at diglib.auburn.edu.

The Piano Bench Collection

This collection contains images of sheet music published before 1923. The musical content consists primarily of American popular songs and piano music. The majority of the items came from the collection of Fred Edmiston, a former librarian at Auburn University Libraries.

Auburn University Urban Studio Digital Collection

This is a collection of posters by students of the Urban Studio, an outreach program of Auburn University’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Each poster is a graphic snapshot of an Alabama community’s Small Town Design Initiative.

Recently Added Collections

Auburn University Theatre Collection

This collection includes a scrapbook of newspaper articles, photographs of productions, programs, and paintings and models of set designs.

American Beauty March published in Birmingham, Ala.

Color painting of a set design by A. Lynn Lockrow for a 2003 production of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”

Alabama Community Plans

These plans are the product of KPS Group’s Darrell Meyer, professor emeritus at Auburn University and founder of the Master of Community Planning Program at Auburn and his staff of LEED-accredited planners and landscape architects.

Elba, Ala., Town plan from Fall 2004.

Color painting of a set design by A. Lynn Lockrow for a 2003 production of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”

East Gadsden redevelopment plan.
Collections Coming Soon

The Everett Leavins Photographs Collection
Everett Leavins was born in 1904 on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and grew up in the Bon Secour area near Mobile, Ala. He joined the U.S. Army in the 1920s. An avid amateur photographer and collector of photographs, his collection of photographs depicts military life in Hawaii during the 1920s and 1930s.

Amelia Earhart and Paul Mantz, Amelia Earhart’s technical advisor, on Earhart’s plane in Hawaii in 1937.

The Philip Henry Gosse Collection
This collection consists of 49 watercolor drawings of Alabama insects. A gifted amateur naturalist, Gosse sketched and hand-colored the drawings in 1838 while he briefly visited Alabama. The 49 transparencies contain the complete set of his drawings of 233 Alabama insects contained in his soon-to-be-published *Entomologia Alabamensis*. The original sketches are in The British Library in London.

Monarch butterflies on Indian pink flower.

Architectural Watercolors of the 1930s and 1940s.
This collection will contain architectural watercolors by Auburn University students created over a two-decade period. Some of the buildings depicted are historic Alabama structures.

Modern Garden

Civil War Diaries
When completed, this collection will contain more than 30 diaries from the Civil War era with transcripts of each handwritten page. The diaries offer a unique look into the lives of common soldiers, spies and even a bodyguard of Abraham Lincoln.

Alexander S. Millard Diary, 1865

Auburn University Digital Library Participants

Janet Bandy (Acquisitions)  
Clint Bellanger (Systems)  
Tommy Brown (GA, Archives)  
Dana Caudle (Cataloging)  
Boyd Childress (Prof. Emeritus)  
Midge Coates (Systems)  
Carole Covington (Acquisitions)  
Jack Fitzpatrick (Cataloging)  
Eileen Hall (Systems)  
Gary Hawkins (Systems)  
Joyce Hicks (Archives)  
Claudine Jenda (Reference)  
Ferie Maghsoodloo (Acquisitions)  
Chris Mixon (Systems)  
Tony Oravet (Systems)  
Reuben Pasquini (Cataloging)  
Greg Schmidt (Archives)  
Cecilia Schmitz (Cataloging)  
Kitty Siu (Cataloging)  
Linda Thornton (Archives)  
Vicki Throckmorton (LADC)  
Aaron Trehub (Systems)  
Liza Weisbrod (Cataloging)

The Auburn University Digital Library is made possible by a generous grant from EBSCO Industries
A Half Century of Serving Auburn University

It was not an easy road to construct the Ralph Brown Draughon Library. State government infighting and a failed bond issue in 1955 were only two of the major obstacles that had to be cleared before Auburn University finally started building the new library it so desperately needed to serve its rapidly-expanding student enrollment in 1960.

Calls for a new library came to the forefront of university issues in the first half of the 1950s. Auburn’s first dedicated library, Mary E. Martin Hall, was completed in 1910 to serve a student body of only 1,000 students. There had been an enlargement of the building in 1939 when enrollment stood at 3,850, but by 1955 enrollment had swelled to 9,100 students and the lack of library capacity was reaching a crisis point. But it would still be another five years before concrete progress could be made.

In 1959 a $100-million bond issue was approved by the state legislature, and from this bond issue came financing for the new Auburn library. The site was approved in March 1960. Bids to build the edifice as designed by Van Keuren, Davis and Co. of Birmingham came in the first week of December 1960, and the contract was awarded to Mid-South Constructors, Inc. for their low bid of $1,995,000. Specifications called for a building of 170,000 square feet with seating for 2,200 and a capacity for 900,000 volumes.

Auburn University wasted no time after the construction contract was awarded; groundbreaking ceremonies for the new library were held on Dec. 21, 1960.

Now come with us through a timeline of events chronicling the last 50 years of our ever-changing and improving Ralph Brown Draughon Library.

1963 January 3, building opens.
November 5, building dedicated.
Equipment and furnishings cost $2.6 million.
1963 Department of Archives established.
1965 Building named after Ralph Brown Draughon.
1966 500,000th volume added, “Hippocrates Opuscula” (1485).
1971 Veterinary Medical Library opens in Greene Hall.
1971 Auburn Library Topics began publication.
1973 Dr. William Highfill becomes library director and serves until 1993.
1974 Installation of 5¢ photo copiers.
1975 Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) computer-assisted catalog system installed.
1977 Architecture Library opens in Dudley Commons.
1978 Haley Center reading room established.
1978 Map collection is designated as U.S.G.S. Map Reference Library.
Average cost of a book - $27.58.
1979 Auburn University President and Mrs. Philpott donate 1,000,000th volume, “The Great Bible.”
1980 Closed stacks established in basement.
1982 Oxmoor collection added in special collections.
1983  National Endowment for the Arts project starts for newspaper microfilming.
1984  Northwestern Online Totally Integrated System (NOTIS)/Library User Information Service (LUIS) online public access catalog goes live.
       Microwave placed in 3rd-floor lounge.
       First Online Public Access (OPAC) terminals installed.
1985  First online databases: Wilson Indexes.
1986  Barcoding project begins in summer.
1988  Groundbreaking for $21.3-million library expansion, which includes first parking deck on campus.
1990  Keyword searching capabilities added to online system.
1991  Smoking ban in libraries.
1991  Dedication of RBD Library addition.
       Free patent searches.
       XCP Venda-Cards are issued for photocopying.
1993  Bobby Holloway becomes library dean and serves until 1997.
1997  Library surpasses two million volumes.
       Voyager integrated library system installed.

1997  Dr. Stella Bentley becomes library director and serves until 2001.
2001  A-Z move.
       Library goes wireless.
2001  Sheri Downer serves as interim library director.
2003  First digital collection added: Loveliest Village photo collection.
2004  Library opens Internet Café and Stacks Café.
       Bonnie MacEwan named Dean of Auburn University Libraries.
2006  First “Up All Night” event.
2007  First “Tailgate at the Library.”
2009  Caribou Coffee shop opens.
2010  Learning Commons dedicated.
Glenn Anderson Leaves Rich Legacy at RBD Library

Glenn Anderson, assistant dean for collection development, retired from his position with the Auburn University Libraries on August 31. In his 32 years with Auburn, Anderson says he looked forward to coming to work each day. It is safe to say his colleagues across the campus and in the libraries also looked forward to his coming in each day.

After receiving his master’s in library sciences from Florida State, Anderson came to Auburn to work in Humanities Reference. Dr. William Highfill was dean of Auburn’s libraries at the time, and since then Anderson has served under four more deans. In 1989 he became head of Humanities. And finally in 1998, he became assistant dean for collection development.

Along the way, Anderson made an indelible mark on Auburn University Libraries. While head of Humanities, Anderson ensured the smooth integration of the Humanities Department library when a consolidation of reference departments and collections took place at RBD Library.

But it was as dean of collection development that Anderson’s talent for negotiation was recognized. Not only did he negotiate with library vendors to get the most for every dollar spent on collections, but he was also constantly working and negotiating with the various colleges on campus to ensure the best support possible - even when budgets were tight.

“Glenn is the consummate diplomat,” said Marcia Boosinger, associate dean for public services and a colleague of Anderson’s for the last 24 years. “He has the rare ability to defuse even the most heated situation and get all parties to the table to discuss issues rationally and form a consensus. That has not always been easy with the budget constraints he has often had to work under and the competing demands of the various colleges, but I don’t think anyone could have done it better.”

“Glenn is a bastion of sanity,” said Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections and colleague of more than 20 years. “He is intelligent, humane and has a broad perspective on the university. That broad perspective is going to be sorely missed.”

Anderson himself is most proud of his work in moving the library’s collection more in line with the university’s curriculum. “I never expected to spend so much of my time and effort on science and technology,” said Anderson. “But the science and technology databases and journals we have added to our collection better align us with the needs of the university.”

While Anderson himself cites science and technology additions, many of his coworkers point out the amazing job he has done in building up a great collection for the library in the subjects of literature and religion over the years, giving Auburn one of the best such collections in the region.

Auburn University Libraries Dean Bonnie MacEwan may have summed up Glenn Anderson’s career at Auburn best of all. “He will be missed campus wide,” said MacEwan. “For many years Glenn has been the face of the libraries at Auburn University, and that face was one of vast knowledge and understanding of the needs of all the Libraries’ varied patrons. He will be impossible to replace.”

Auburn University Libraries Plug Into Social Networking

Last year’s major overhaul and ongoing improvement of the library website has turned out to be just the beginning of Auburn University Libraries’ efforts to better connect with its users. Taking advantage of the social networking phenomenon, Auburn University Libraries has established Facebook and Twitter accounts to cover more of the channels that today’s student count on for fast, informative communications.

Anyone wishing to follow Auburn University Libraries can visit their Facebook and Twitter sites at facebook.com/auburnlibraries and twitter.com/aulibraries respectively. Also visit us at www.lib.auburn.edu/social.
Joyce Hicks Transcribes Civil War Diaries and Letters as Last Major Project Before Retirement

Researchers looking for insights into the thoughts of the people who lived through our nation’s bloodiest war are getting a huge helping hand from Joyce Hicks, specialist technician in RBD Special Collections, as she completes her 21-year career with Auburn University Libraries. Hicks has been transcribing and digitizing the university’s collection of diaries and letters from the Civil War era and, with the help of Aaron Trehub, Midge Coates, Linda Thornton, Dana Caudle and students Natalie Spikes, Zach Bowman and Allana Coxwell, is making them far more accessible to a wider audience than ever before.

Hicks started the transcription project more than three years ago and since then the project has grown to occupy a much larger portion of her duties as the true value of the work has been realized.

The fragile nature of the almost 150-year-old artifacts is one reason this project has become so important. While the library wants to assist in research and make the documents available to all researchers, each handling of the documents threatens damage to them. Further, the nature of the documents (handwritten and often very small because of the value and scarcity of writing materials at the time) means each requires meticulous attention to decipher the full text.

Hicks has lovingly worked on each of the diaries and letters and done her best to ensure each is transcribed letter-for-letter from the original to preserve the writer’s personal voice and eccentricities of expression. This gives the modern reader the full flavor of the original

in an easy-to-read format without the need to actually handle the artifact.

While transcribing the letters and diaries, Hicks also had each scanned to digital images. Working in conjunction with the Auburn University Digital Library team, Hicks’ transcripts and the digitized copies of the original artifacts will be brought together and available for viewing side-by-side on computer screens all over the world in early 2011.

As of this writing, more than 30 diaries have been transcribed and digitized. The majority of the work yet to be done involves the library’s collection of letters.

Union diaries and letters account for most of the library’s collection (due mainly to the Union army’s greater size and better access to writing materials) and run the gamut from common soldiers to spies and even a bodyguard for President Lincoln. Hicks has expressed a keen interest in obtaining more Confederate diaries and letters either through donation or as a loan so they can be digitally scanned and transcribed before being returned.

Hicks began her career with Auburn University Libraries in 1989 as a clerk in Special Collections. Over the years, she worked her way up to the specialist technician II position she currently holds. Along the way, she developed a deep interest in genealogy, and has even used her skills to help Auburn students find their birth parents.

Her colleagues at the libraries and across the university salute her contribution to the continued success of the library and wish her a long and happy retirement.
Inter-Library Loan Adds New Capabilities

For Pambanisha King, Inter-Library Loan (ILL) librarian, and her department staff, the highest goal is having academic customers, both student and faculty, quickly and transparently get the materials they need. It is only when the system fails and materials don’t get to those that need them that they want visibility so the need can be addressed. The newly-added RapidILL system should make King someone ILL customers see even less.

The brainchild of Colorado State University ILL librarians, RapidILL is a system that allows fulfillment of ILL requests electronically in as little as an hour. It was designed by ILL librarians to be as efficient as possible getting information into the hands of requestors.

The RapidILL system is unique in several ways. It is designed specifically for resource sharing activities. Only information essential to borrowing and lending material is maintained in the database. The database is comprised only of the holdings of the participating RapidILL libraries. Each library provides a holdings file to the RapidILL programming team for inclusion in the database. The RapidILL database is unmatched in depth of indexing. Most ILL databases index only to the journal title level, but RapidILL matches to the year level. When a borrowing request matches an available entry in the RapidILL database, it is immediately known if the specified title is held by a RapidILL participant.

Auburn’s RapidILL membership came at substantial savings to the university through the efforts of the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) and Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL). By aggregating the memberships of their 12 member universities, ASERL was able to obtain a 10 percent discount over what each university would have paid individually. In addition, the SECAC provosts provided $7,000 in funding to each member university to cover startup costs for RapidILL.

RapidILL should be fully online by the beginning of the fall 2010 semester and joins the existing ASERL and Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) systems in the ILL department’s stable of services to enhance learning resources availability at Auburn University Libraries. ILL customers will not need to make requests for materials any differently, as ILL staff will make determinations of which service will most efficiently fulfill a specific request.

ALLIES Allies Five Alabama University Libraries

Ever wish you could get a book from another university library in Alabama as easily as checking out a book at the front desk of the RBD Library? With the Alabama Library Exchange Service, or ALLIES, you can.

According to J.P. Pendleton, head of Auburn University Libraries’ Circulation Department, ALLIES is a cooperative agreement between the libraries of Auburn University, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Auburn University at Montgomery, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Jacksonville State that allows an identification card holder from any of the universities to check out books at all ALLIES libraries.

This can be done simply by walking into one of the participating libraries, selecting a book and then presenting it with a valid university ID at the checkout desk. It is also possible to search for a book in a participating library’s online catalog, request the book online, and then pick up the book at the receiving library in approximately three days.

Either way, the book is checked out for a full four-weeks and can be returned to any participating library at the end of the loan period.
Aaron Trehub Receives 2010 AACRL Achievement Award

Aaron Trehub, assistant dean for technology and technical services at Auburn University Libraries, has received the 2010 Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contribution from the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries (AACRL). The annual award honors library and information professionals and graduate students who work or reside in Alabama and have made a significant contribution in the area of college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national or international level.

Toni Dean Selected for ALA Leadership Program

To ensure it continues to have quality individuals in leadership roles for the future, the American Library Association (ALA) started the Emerging Leaders program to cultivate and train the association’s leaders of tomorrow. In 2009, Auburn University Libraries’ own Toni Dean, instruction and reference librarian and communications disorders liaison, was selected from a very competitive field of applicants to enter the Emerging Leaders program.

Starting at the association’s mid-winter meeting in Boston with a full day of training and continuing with five-person task groups to study and recommend changes to library policy across the country, Dean has been hard at work developing the skills needed to fill leadership positions in ALA and hone abilities she can use every day at Auburn University Libraries.

Dean’s five-person group was tasked with recommending changes to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee for the association’s Libraries and Internet Toolkit. Among the functions of this document is assisting libraries in Internet use policies. Dean and her group met virtually for most of the year and in person at the Intellectual Freedom Committee spring 2010 meeting in Chicago. Two of the major topics added to the toolkit were “Information Literacy,” the ability to evaluate the quality of information sources, and “Open Access,” the free and open availability of scholarly content on the Internet.

The group’s findings were presented to the association at the ALA annual meeting in June and, with edits, were accepted by the committee.

Dean and Auburn University Libraries have already begun to see the fruits of her Emerging Leaders experience: she has been selected to chair the ALA Scholarships and Study Grants Committee.
Recipients of the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching came together on May 4 to honor the Leischucks and present a plaque for display in the RBD Library that commemorates the Leischucks’ generosity and will provide a place to list recipients of their award both past and future.

The event and reception that followed were hosted by the past recipients to express their gratitude to the Leischucks. Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Provost Mary Ellen Mazey and past recipient Dr. Danny Butler spoke at the event and praised the Leischucks for their contribution to teaching quality at Auburn University.

The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching are awarded each year to two full-time, tenured faculty members who have demonstrated effective and innovative teaching methods and a continuing commitment to student success through advising and mentoring both inside and outside the classroom.

Jeanne Sledge has made a gift of six volumes of John James Audubon’s seven-volume, third-edition set of *The Birds of America, from Drawings Made in the United States and Their Territories*, published in 1859. In addition, she has also donated Audubon’s Plate 374 depicting the Sharpshined Hawk, engraved and printed by Robert Havell. Her generous donation will be housed and available to researchers at Auburn University’s Ralph Brown Draughon Library in the Special Collections and Archives Department.

“These items are truly a once-in-a-lifetime acquisition for the Auburn University Libraries and the Special Collections and Archives Department,” said Greg Schmidt, special collections librarian at Auburn University Libraries. “Few libraries in the world have these early editions of Audubon’s books, and fewer still are located in the United States. These early editions are very difficult to acquire and expensive when found. We are very fortunate that Mrs. Sledge has made a gift to Auburn University of such a rare and valuable collection.”

The Audubon books and print were the property of Mrs. Sledge and Dr. Eugene B. Sledge. Dr. Sledge is best known as the author of *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa*, which was one of the two books used as a basis for the screenplay of the recent HBO series *The Pacific*. Dr. Sledge, a graduate of Auburn and professor of biology at Alabama College (now the University of Montevallo), has also long been recognized as a leading ornithologist in the region, leading many bird-study expeditions.

*The Birds of America* contains more than 500 entries and illustrations of birds made by Audubon during his extensive travels in North America during the first half of the 19th century. Schmidt will be working to obtain the missing volume of the set to make this gift even more useful to researchers. The Sharpshined Hawk print will be fitted with state-of-the-art, ultraviolet-protective glass so it may be displayed and enjoyed by library patrons.
Special Collections Adds New Manuscripts

Alabama native Kathryn Tucker Windham is a nationally recognized storyteller, photographer and author of such books as *Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey* (1969). Her talents have been featured at the National Storytelling Festival, on Alabama Public Radio, and on National Public Radio. The Kathryn Tucker Windham papers contain correspondence, drafts of manuscripts, and other materials related to her career. The collection was a gift from Mrs. Windham.

Alabama author Mary Ward Brown has published several books of short stories, including *Tongues of Flame* (1986) and *It Wasn’t All Dancing* (2002). Her writings focus primarily on southern culture. She has earned numerous awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Alabama Author Award, and the Harper Lee Award. The Mary Ward Brown papers include correspondence, a personal memoir, drafts of short stories, and speeches. This collection was a gift of Mrs. Brown.

A resident of Limestone County, Alabama, Liberty Independence Nixon served in the Confederate Army, probably Company E of the 50th Alabama Regiment. Following the war, he worked as a peace officer, school teacher, post master, and Democratic Party activist. Auburn’s Liberty Independence Nixon Papers include his Civil War diary. The Nixon papers were a gift of Thomas Norman Batts through his granddaughter, Lauren Batts, an Auburn student.

In March 1864, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant general-in-chief of all armies. In that capacity, Grant directed a persistent and eventually successful campaign against General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Auburn has added to its collections a contemporary copy of Grant’s April 1865 letter to Lee detailing the terms of surrender for the Army of Northern Virginia. Auburn acquired this generous gift from James L. Starr.

Richard K. Smith is known for his contributions to the field of aviation history. He worked as a historian for the National Air and Space Museum and as a consultant for several military think tanks. Smith wrote dozens of articles and three books on aviation history. His papers contain correspondence, research notes, manuscripts, and photographs related to this subject. Auburn acquired the Smith papers as a gift from Michael Kugatow, his heir.

Joshua Buhs is a historian of science and author of *The Fire Ant Wars: Nature, Science, and Public Policy in Twentieth-Century America* (2004). His papers contain research materials related to this volume, including material documenting the national fire ant program beginning in the late 1960s. Dr. Buhs conducted research in Auburn’s Special Collections while gathering information for his book. Auburn acquired this material as a gift from Dr. Buhs.

In 1980, Alabama votes sent Republican Jeremiah A. Denton to the United States Senate. Danny Cooper, who previously held several positions in the Alabama Republican Party, became the new senator’s state director. The Cooper papers contain constituent correspondence, briefing books, and memoranda between the senator and his state director. Cooper donated this material to Auburn. The Auburn Libraries also hold the papers of Sen. Denton.

Auburn University graduate Andrew P. Hornsby, Jr., played an active role in the Alumni Association beginning in the 1990s. He eventually served as president of the association. His papers contain memoranda, correspondence, reports and oral histories documenting alumni activity during this era, including formation of the Auburn Trustee Improvement Pac and ATIP’s role in changing the trustee selection process. Auburn acquired this material as a gift from Mr. Hornsby.

The Auburn Libraries wish to thank those whose generosity made these acquisitions possible.

For more on recent additions to Special Collections, visit their website at: http://www.lib.auburn.edu/sca/.
Auburn Libraries Achievements

Pambanisha King, inter-library loan librarian, earned tenure March 2010.

Dwayne Cox, continued work on a history of Auburn University under contract with the University of Alabama Press.

Linda Thornton, article, “The Black Belt Environmental Science and Arts Program,” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Extension; and an entry entitled “Tuscumbia” has been published in the Encyclopedia of Alabama.


Aaron Trehub, presentation, “Information Technology and Slavic Librarianship.” Invited presentation at the 41st national convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), Boston, Massachusetts, November 2009.


Marliese Thomas and Michael Gorrell. “Enabling Discovery via the Cloud.” Accepted for full concurrent session at the 2010 LITA National Forum in Atlanta, Georgia, Oct. 2-4, 2010.


Greg Schmidt and Marliese Thomas. “Discovery Layer or

Michael Pearce, Jason Battles, Marliese Thomas, Lisa Campbell, and Jill Grogg, “How to Select Discovery Interfaces.” Presented as a College, University, and Special Librarians Division Pre-conference at the ALA Annual Conference, Huntsville, Alabama, April, 13, 2010.

Liza Weisbrod with Bonnie MacEwan, Jimmie Lundgren, (University of Florida), Beth Rowe (UNC Chapel Hill), panel discussion, “Mainstreaming FDLP Collection Management: Roles for Collection Managers, Tech Services, Documents Librarians, Public Service Librarians, and Others.”

Become a Power Giver

The evolution of the Auburn University Libraries has seen many changes in the way the library is used, but few as dramatic as the rise of learning aided by technology and the resulting need for electrical power to make it possible. But more outlets cost money.

Growing from an idea proposed by a member of the Auburn University Libraries Development Board who wrote a check to kick off the initiative, Power Givers provides individual donors the opportunity to contribute the $500 needed to place one electrical outlet in the library for student use. Since April the campaign has raised over $10,000.

“Power comes in many forms,” said Randall Ledkins, director of development for Auburn University Libraries. “Power Givers has now evolved to those who empower our students and faculty through information, knowledge, technology and much more.’’

Anyone wishing to join the Power Givers campaign and have their name added to the Power Pole roll of givers in the Learning Commons should contact the Auburn University Libraries Development Office: (334) 844-7032 or ledkira@auburn.edu

In Remembrance

Auburn University Libraries lost two of its own family in April 2010. Henry McCurley and Tom Sanders were treasured members of the RBD Library staff and were valuable resources for both students and coworkers.

Henry H. McCurley, Jr., librarian emeritus at Auburn University, served the libraries for 20 years. His last position was as head of the Cataloging Department. He is remembered most by his colleagues as a gentle, soft-spoken man with a great sense of humor and vast knowledge of philosophy and classical history. His final gift to the RBD Library was the donation of his personal library of books and media that contained more than 5,000 items.

Thomas R. Sanders, librarian emeritus at Auburn University, was hired as the head of the Serials Department. In his 26 years with Auburn, he was very active on campus, serving on several campus-wide and libraries committees. One of his greatest legacies is his pioneering work in electronic journals cataloging at a time when such publications were new and difficult to search.

Both McCurley and Sanders worked with Helen Goldman, coordinator of cataloging operations. “Every day we miss them and the contribution they made to this library,” said Goldman. “Countless students, past, present and future, owe them a great deal for making this the kind of library that is needed to get the best education possible.”
Discover Auburn

Fall 2010 Lectures

The Discover Auburn Lecture Series, sponsored by the Auburn University Libraries, resumes this fall. The lectures take place in Special Collections, located on the ground floor of the Draughon Library.

Thursday, Aug. 26, 3 p.m., Tom Eden, Auburn’s head cheerleader during the 1949-1950 academic year, will discuss this activity as the Tigers inaugurate a new football season.

Thursday, Sep. 16, 3 p.m., Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections, will discuss Auburn’s history from 1900 to 1920 as part of the centennial of Comer Hall, occupied in 1910.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 3 p.m., Jeff Jakeman, editor of the Encyclopedia of Alabama and associate professor of history, will discuss this valuable online resource, located at http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Home.jsp.

Thursday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m., a color power-point presentation will feature archival photographs, taken by the late Cornelia Martin, of Afghanistan and the Pakistan frontier before the fighting.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 3 p.m., Richard Penaskovic, coordinator of Religious Studies, will discuss “The Muslim-Christian Dialogue.”

The public is welcome to attend the lectures and the receptions that follow. Past lectures appear in the Auburn University Digital Library at http://diglib.auburn.edu/.

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.