Spring 2010

Bookmark Spring 2010

McKee Library

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Are campus libraries still relevant? With the World Wide Web at my fingertips, why do I need to go to the library for research? These questions are being asked by a society that is increasingly technology based. Here on Southern Adventist University’s campus McKee Library is growing by meeting the needs of a technologically savvy and mobile student community (see “Technology on the Move,” p. 3).

Historically, libraries have functioned as repositories of information. Today, information is available at the click of a mouse, and navigating the information highway is becoming more difficult. Futurist Thomas Frey wrote in his article Future Libraries: Nerve Center of the Community, “While retaining its traditional functions, the library of the future will be home to myriad informational experiences, where great ideas happen and people have the tools and facilities to act on them.” McKee Library houses the technological tools that students use every day, and the librarians at Southern provide the hands-on help that students need. This creates a learning commons, merging technology and library services.

Last semester, the Southern Scholars Wall moved from Brock Hall to McKee Library. History Professor Mark Peach, director of Southern Scholars, proposed the move because Southern Scholars is an interdisciplinary honors program. Students enroll in challenging honors courses and maintain a high GPA; they also produce a significant research project. As the university’s learning commons, the library plays a key role in the success of these students. Since 1984, 174 students have graduated from the program. McKee Library’s Katie McGrath, a reference/instruction librarian, graduated as a Southern Scholar. Some Southern Scholars have also received the Fulbright Scholarship and participated in Teach for America.

Southern Scholars continues to grow and is now a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. According to Peach, Southern is “working to enhance the educational experience of outstanding students who want to go beyond the syllabus.”
GOOD FRIENDS

Friends of McKee Library offers expanded cultural events and library service opportunities to the local community.

To support the expanding role of McKee Library on Southern’s campus, Friends of McKee Library has been formed. The American Library Association states “no one has a stronger voice for libraries in the community and on campus than those who use and love libraries.” At McKee Library, Friends promote the development of the library through voluntary contributions and participation. Friends also serve as a bridge of goodwill between the library and the local community. If you used the library as a student at Southern, Friends is looking for you. If you worked in the library, we want to know your name. It is through you that McKee Library can grow.

Two activities last semester highlighted what Friends is all about. In October, Friends hosted a Recitation at the library during Alumni Weekend. Conjuring up an image of Anne of Green Gables reading The Highwayman, local alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members recited favorite passages. A highlight of the event was Mika Carey, age 8, reciting Martin Luther King’s I Have a Dream speech.

Friends also planned a community service event during the Christmas holidays that brought in over 100 warm winter items. The Collegedale Church provided a two story Christmas tree that was set up on the main floor of the library. Students “decorated” the tree with hats, scarves, and gloves that the Samaritan Center will use in their free Christmas Toy Shop. It is our hope that both the Christmas Tree Campaign and the Recitation will become annual events.

Take advantage of the many events and experiences that are available at the library every day. Come and visit the library this year and see what we have to offer.
We are delighted to bring you the latest issue of McKee Library’s newsletter. This newsletter was on hiatus for almost 10 years but now is back as Bookmark, a biannual McKee Library publication. The purpose of Bookmark is to promote library services and resources to Southern’s community, encourage student and faculty involvement, promote Friends of McKee Library, solicit donations, and increase library awareness.

For the last four decades, McKee Library has served as the academic heart of this campus. The library was opened in September of 1970, and we are proud to celebrate 40 years of service. During this time, the physical collections have more than tripled and the introduction of electronic resources ushered in a new era for teaching, learning, and research. Library services are enhanced as library staff focus on accountability and transparency. The Hands Project, introduced as a part of the library’s involvement with Southern Connections, gives all incoming freshmen the opportunity to leave their handprint in the library as they receive their initial information literacy instruction. Librarians are teaching—during the current academic year, the number of library instruction sessions increased by one-third and collaboration with departments is strengthening to improve information literacy across the curriculum.

Through a recent collaboration with a digital archiving service, McKee Library digitized early yearbooks and other university publications. Recent remodeling has made the library a prime social space—gate count has increased around 30 percent!

As we anticipate the future, McKee Library will continue a lecture series, art exhibits, and other programming to celebrate 40 years of service. Our ultimate goal is to emulate our Lord in everything we do and to see the lives of the students transformed in accordance with the gospel promise: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).
LOOKING BACK: FALL SEMESTER 2009

August 24
Scream

Ongoing
Hands: A Southern Connection Project
Freshmen leave handprints on a permanent art display.

May-current
“A Day Through Time”
Emily Ford
Art Exhibit

October 6
The American Civil War: Myths, Legends, and True Tales
Storyteller
Richard Hensley

June-January
“Form, Mass, Plane, and Space”
Frank Miranda
Art Exhibit

October 30
Recitation
See article page 2

October 31
Southern Scholars Wall
See page 1.

June-December
“Order and Chaos”
Loren Howard
Art Exhibit

November 4
Issues in Native American Identity in Tennessee
Tom Kunish
Tennessee State Commissioner for Indian Affairs

Current Display
“Seashells of the Philippines”
Edwin Reynolds

December 1
Painting Unveiling
Melissa Hefferlin donates first painting to the library’s art collection.

December 1-16
Christmas Tree Campaign
See page 2.