Spring 2012

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McKee Library

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ALUMNI WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

McKee Library was a very busy place over alumni homecoming weekend! The excitement kicked off with a Wednesday evening lecture by acclaimed photojournalist Billy Weeks. Weeks has received a number of awards, including an award of excellence for editorial photography in the 2006 Communication Arts Photography Annual and the 2011 Gordon Parks International Photography Award. Over 130 people gathered to listen as Weeks presented an engaging lecture about his work as a photographer and what goes into making a good photograph. His photography displays The Baseball Factory and Central America, which included his Gordon Parks award-winning photograph Young Mother, were available to be enjoyed throughout the fall semester.

The interest in photography continued on Friday morning with the official opening of the photography exhibition Southern Exposures. Professional photographer Garrett Nudd gave a touching presentation entitled The Search for 1,000 Words: Exploring Society’s Love-Affair with Photography. Attendees to the lecture were able to tour the exhibition, which featured photographs taken by Southern students and alumni. These works also remained on display for the entire fall semester, giving our community time to thoroughly enjoy their beauty.

Friday afternoon found Southern Scholars students, faculty, and alumni gathered in the library to share a delicious meal and listen to Southern Scholars alumnus Zane Yi discuss the ways in which an honors education has shaped his life. Current scholars were able to participate in a question-and-answer forum with Yi and spend time connecting with each other and with Southern Scholars alumni and faculty. Sabbath afternoon the focus turned to the children visiting campus for the weekend. Nearly 80 people turned out to enjoy Story Hour for Kids of All Ages presented by master storytellers Bruce Hop.

In the Library

CELEBRATING MARK TWAIN

Lecture featured life sketch of Mark Twain. Photos of Twain and his travels were highlighted.

McKee Library hosted its second annual Celebrate Twain event on September 22nd. This year’s featured speaker was Dr. Allison Ensor, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and author of Mark Twain and the Bible.

Dr. Ensor offered an overview of Mark Twain’s importance in American literature and his continuing popularity with the American public. His presentation included descriptions of the various facets of Twain and pictures relating to his life.

This year’s event held special significance because Dr. Duane Bietz, co-donor of the Duane and Eunice Bietz Collection and the library’s honorary curator, flew in from Oregon to be a part of it and to introduce some of his newly donated items.

The donated collection features several first-edition novels, signed copies of published works, and many other valuable Twain items. Additional materials will be received from the donors over the next few years. For more information on the collection, please visit the library website.

Story continues on page 2
PAPER OR PLASTIC? PART 2

In part 1 of this article, Anderson explored the future of libraries in the face of our ever-evolving electronic era.

Kindle is the brand name of only one of the e-readers that are now available in the marketplace. Will these electronic gadgets supplant the library as a source for reading for pleasure and knowledge, or will they assist in broadening the scope of library use? I suppose only time will tell. But just what are the advantages and disadvantages of these electronic e-readers that are invading households and campuses across America? Although I have chosen the Kindle as an example, I think the following advantages and disadvantages apply to all brands of e-readers.

There is something interesting and novel about the Kindle, and once you learn how to use it, it could prove handy and helpful at times, but whether or not it will ever replace the library has yet to be determined.

### ADVANTAGES

| E-readers are handy. You can hold them in your hand and take them with you wherever you go. | You will miss the feel of a book or magazine and the smell of a tome that has an aroma all of its own. |
| You don’t need a library card to check out books. | You will be limited to the kinds and amount of books available on the e-reader. |
| You won’t have to spend money for gas to go to the library. | You will have to buy an e-reader (around $100) and replace it when it becomes outmoded. |
| There will be no late or overdue fees. | There may be a fee for replacement parts and you would want to buy books to keep permanently on the e-reader. |
| You can read from them in the dark or bright light quite easily. | It is yet unknown how the constant light from the e-reader affects the eyes. |
| No more carrying an armful of books across campus, and no more being fearful that you might lose a library book. | You might drop or lose an e-reader, and it costs a great deal more than most books to replace. |
| You can take notes on the e-reader without damaging the pages of a library book. | It might not be easy to locate notes on the e-reader at a moment’s notice, but, in time, you could get used to it. |

### DISADVANTAGES

In part 1 of this article, Anderson explored the future of libraries in the face of our ever-evolving electronic era.
HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

What do students like about the library and what improvements do they want?

To many, the library is the hub of a university campus. We would like to believe that McKee Library is a center that draws in students, faculty, staff, and community patrons to seek answers, information, knowledge, and enjoyment. I created an opinion poll to get an idea of what the students like the most about McKee Library, what they would change if they could, and what they feel is the library’s main goal.

We can learn a lot from our students and we appreciate their willingness to share their opinions with us. Here are the results:

What do you like most about McKee Library?

- Atmosphere: 25%
- Study Rooms: 41%
- Resources: 29%
- Hours: 5%

What changes would you like to see?

- More Computers: 15%
- More Assistance: 30%
- Vending Machine or Snack Bar: 32%
- Less Noise: 23%
- Good Study Environment: 31%
- For Research: 39%

I feel that the main goal of the library is . . .

- Bruce Hopson entertained kids of all ages with his storytelling during Alumni Homecoming Weekend.
- Billy Weeks’ lecture on telling stories through photography brought more than 130 visitors to the library.
- Baseball Factory, an exhibit by Billy Weeks, highlighted the importance of the game in the Dominican Republic.
BOOKS AND ART

Enjoy new displays and acquisitions at the library!

Lincoln by Greene

*In the Darkest Hour: Lincoln at Antietam,* a Nathan Greene print depicting Abraham Lincoln reading his Bible, was donated to the library last fall. Stop by the library director’s office and check it out!

Baby Bonds

A new collection of Civil War bonds and notes are currently on display on the first floor.

Tea Time

Inspired by her daughter’s desire to have a tea party, Southern employee Brenda Flores-Lopez started collecting teacups and saucers six years ago. Her collection boasts over 40 items, some of which are on display in the library through April.

Books on Display

Our new book display features books from the library’s collection by subject matter and recommended picks by our staff. Check one out today!

Naturally Wonderful

Photographer Alan Orrison’s collection entitled Natural Wonder is currently showcased on the first floor of the library through April. Orrison is a Southern alum (’06) who recently graduated with a MFA degree in Photography from Savannah College of Art and Design.

Friends News

FRIENDS

Consider becoming a Friend of McKee Library. Visit the library website or email library.friends@southern.edu for more information.

Friends were busy last semester!

- They volunteered 16 hours a week to keep the Lincoln Library open for quiet study.
- Raised $119 for library projects during the fall Used Book Sale.
- Sponsored the framing of the library’s new Nathan Greene print (See story above).
- Collected hats, scarves, and gloves during their annual Giving Tree campaign, donating needed items to the Samaritan Center.

CAR DISPLAY WINNER!

During the Fall semester 2011, students were challenged to name all the model cars in a sizeable collection lent to us by retired Southern professor, John T. Durichek, for display in McKee Library. The results are in and the winner is Joshua Farnsworth! Hats off to this nursing student for his in-depth research and considerable car knowledge!