Fall 2012

Bookmark Fall 2012

McKee Library

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The McKee Library Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 2  ■  Fall 2012

A COMMUNAL SPACE
The transformation of quiet study at McKee Library

Since 1970, McKee Library has been providing quiet study space to students at Southern. As technology has advanced, computer usage and patron numbers have increased and the library has become a popular place to study. With this increase, the library is adapting to the needs of students for both quiet and group study.

Social Academic Library
When the library was remodeled in 2007, it was transformed into more of a social academic library. Yet students at Southern are looking for both social and communal study space. In his article “Academic Libraries: “Social” or “Communal?”, J.T. Gayton explains that “there is a profound difference between a space in which library users are engaged in social activity and a space in which they are engaged in communal activity.” Social activity involves open conversation in spaces like cafés or galleries, whereas communal activity is solitary. It “involves seeing and being seen quietly engaging in study.”

Since 2007, usage has steadily increased as students have filled the library with social study. The open and inviting environment at the library has facilitated usage as a sort of alternate student center where students come to hang out, read magazines, and surf the internet. This has cut down on quiet communal study space and has motivated the library to evaluate the types of study space provided.

Quiet Study Space
In the spring of 2011, the Lincoln Library on the third floor was opened at the request of students who were looking for a quiet space to study. The isolation of the space and the lack of computer stations make it ideal for

JEWELS OF SCHOLARSHIP ON DISPLAY
Valuable Mark Twain items to be showcased during alumni weekend

On October 26, at 4:30 pm, some of the crown jewels of our collections will be on display during Southern’s third annual Mark Twain Celebration. The Duane and Eunice Bietz Collection of Mark Twain material was dedicated in October of 2010, becoming a focal point of McKee Library’s special collections and making Southern a destination for Mark Twain researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts.

This year’s featured speaker will be rare book appraiser John Henley, who has done extensive work with this collection. Henley has been in the used/antiquarian book business since 1977. Among his other qualifications, he has completed coursework at both Columbia University and AB Bookman’s Rare Book School at Denver State College.

Henley’s presentation will focus on the Duane and Eunice Bietz Collection’s value and is certain to be a highlight of alumni weekend. ■

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this purpose.
Since the doors were opened, the
Lincoln Library has seen a steady
increase in usage.
It has seating for
20 students. However, it could hold twice
that number with a furniture reconfiguration; potentially many more after the square
footage is increased with the current library
roof expansion.

The Second Floor
During the busiest time in the library
(evenings), the second floor becomes the
most used space with as many as 100 or more
students. Tables are crowded with study
groups, computer stations are all in use, and
our quieter sections along the outer walls are
not as quiet as they could be. Some students
have even taken to sitting on the floor in the
stacks.
The library has started looking at
additional quiet study options. Study tables
are being added to the Knowledge Commons
on the first floor, and the creation of
additional study rooms is being considered
(the eight study rooms are booked solid for
most of the day). These options have the
possibility of facilitating a quieter communal
work space on the second floor.

Future Growth
Southern has experienced growth since
the late 1990s and is on track for continued
expansion. The need for a communal
academic library will continue to increase
with enrollment. McKee Library must be able
to meet the needs of our current students
while preparing for the future requirements
of a growing campus.

A Fond Farewell

THE END OF AN ERA

Frank Di Memmo retires after 32 years at Southern, 12 with McKee Library

After 32 years of service at Southern,
Frank Di Memmo retired at the end of the
2011-2012 school year, marking the end of an
era.
Di Memmo spent his early career as a
teacher and principal at Patterson Memorial
Seventh Day Adventist School in Nauvoo,
Pennsylvania, and then at Fair Oaks Junior
Academy in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. According
to Di Memmo, he learned as much as he
taught. One year after receiving his M.S. in
Communication from Shippensburg State
College (now Shippensburg University), he
became the Media Director at Forest Lake
Elementary Educational Center, one of the
largest Adventist elementary schools in the
North American Division. In June 1980,
Di Memmo joined the staff of Southern as
Director of Instructional Media. In January
2000, he transitioned to working as the media
librarian at McKee Library, an area that he
appreciated and with which he was familiar.
Over the years, Di Memmo has
experienced a number of changes in the
media field, including the switch from reel-to-
reel videotape to DVD, and from phonograph

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records to MP3s. Not only has he enjoyed working in the media side of his job, but also working with other staff in the library and throughout campus. However, Di Memmo’s favorite aspect of librarianship has been working and interacting with the students. According to him, his real inspiration throughout the years has come by learning from them.

Students and colleagues alike were inspired by Di Memmo. As stated by Jennifer Huck, technical services manager, “Frank always went the extra mile and was willing to help anybody he worked with. You can’t meet him without becoming his friend. His capacity of love for family and friends is so unique and great.” Former student Cecilia Luck added that “Frank has been a great friend and mentor to student workers at the library.”

We’ve enjoyed having Di Memmo as a part of this library for 12 years. May God bless him and his wife, Brigitte, as they enjoy retirement!

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Often when we think about libraries, what comes to mind are rows of bookshelves living in quiet solitude. Although we are justly proud of our book collections on the second floor, McKee Library is now undergoing considerable change.

Recently, the staff met to discuss the key functions of a university library. I would like to take a moment to share these with you. The consensus among staff was that the mission of your library is five-fold:

1. **Preserve** and organize knowledge for future generations.
2. Facilitate **Access** to quality knowledge.
3. **Package** knowledge for specific contexts.
4. **Educate** in the proper evaluation and assessment of knowledge.
5. Support and enhance **Research** activities here at Southern.

Astute readers may have already noticed that if you take the first letter of each highlighted word, the result spells “paper.” Although we did not plan it that way, it is only fitting that we pay homage to our past as McKee Library develops a renewed focus for the future.

While we consider ways to enhance research activities at the library, we are excited about a new roof coming this fall. This will open up additional space on the third floor which we hope to make into quiet study and research space. Let us know what you think.

We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Dan Maxwell
Interim Director

**TRANSITIONS**

Joe Mocnik passes torch after four years

After four years as McKee Library’s director, Josip (Joe) Mocnik has moved on to Georgia College and State University, where he will act as director of libraries. Some of Mocnik’s contributions to the library include enhancing special collections, starting **Friends of McKee Library**, acquiring artwork, obtaining compact shelving, and increasing campus-wide visibility of library services.

Mocnik started his new position on July 1st. Dan Maxwell, former electronic resources librarian, is now acting as the library’s interim librarian.

We thank Mocnik for his years of service at McKee Library and wish him God’s blessings in this new position.

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**RAISING THE ROOF**

A new library roof and increased third floor space

We are excited about a new roof addition currently being installed at McKee Library! With the installation of this new roof, we will have another 3,000 square feet of much needed space on the third floor. A big thanks goes out to our donors for their support in improving the library.
Out and About at the Library

THIS & THAT
McKee Library events, displays, and student resources

Greenfire Showing
On April 5th, McKee Library and the Collegedale Public Library co-hosted a showing of the documentary film Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethnic For Our Time at Collegedale City Hall. A good number of community members as well as Southern students and faculty attended the showing.

The film follows the life of Aldo Leopold, who many consider to be the father of wildlife conservation. Following the film, Jim Pfitzer, a local storyteller, recited “Thinking like a Mountain” an essay from Leopold’s book A Sand County Almanac. A discussion and small reception ended the evening.

Bible Concordance on Display
Ray and Jeanne (Zacharias) Hartwell, 1978 graduates, recently presented Southern with a rare Bible Concordance entitled A New Concordance to the Holy Scriptures by John Butterworth. This concordance was used by early Adventist pioneer Joseph Bates; it contains his signature and handwritten notes. Housed at McKee Library, this important piece of Adventist heritage is now accessible for research. Library staff will assist in preserving it and in making it visible to the wider church family.

Fast Facts About the Lincoln Library, by Clint Anderson
- Open for quiet study from 3 - 10 p.m.; 5-10 p.m. on Sundays.
- Home of the only known replica of King Louis XV’s desk made by Jean Henri Riesener (donated by Harold and Peggy Elkins).
- Houses the Thomas Memorial Collection, containing books about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.
- Comfortably accommodates 20 patrons for research and quiet study.
- The room is supervised by Southern’s friendly Lights Volunteers.
- The busiest hours are from 6-10 p.m.

On Display:
- A book from Joseph Bates’ personal library!

On Display: A book from Joseph Bates’ personal library!

On February 1st, Dr. David Trim, Director of Archives, Statistics, and Research for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, presented “Struggles, Defeats and Victories: Adventist History and Adventist Mission.” This lecture was joint-sponsored by McKee Library and the School of Religion.

Dr. Trim’s presentation was full of stories about J. N. Andrews, George Keough, John Loughbrough, and others. He explained how not many primary sources of documentation remained from that time period, and much of what we have are people’s recollections of events. He argued that preserving our past history is integral to our mission and urged us to attempt to do better for future generations.

We thank Dr. Trim for taking time out of his very busy schedule to give us such an important lecture.