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The Stacks
Friends of the Library Newsletter
East Carolina University
Spring 2022

The Library has had an exciting start to the Spring Semester. We saw a drastic increase in Pirate traffic over the previous year. We are excited to see the Library resources being used as students hit their stride for Spring 2022.

About our Administrative Students

Library Administration is proud to host four administrative students this Spring. Our student employees help facilitate student success, support library staff development, program development, advocacy, and academic growth. Each Administrative student brings a different aspect to our team dynamic which continuously promotes positive development for Academic Library Services. We are excited for you to meet our students!

Darden, Madison, Jaylyn, Alli
From the ALS Director

Thank you for being a Friend! And if you are reading this newsletter and are not a current member of the Friends, please consider joining. It’s easy to do online from the Friends website or directly on the ECU Giving page.

The Friends of Joyner Library was the first such organization at ECU and has a long, strong history of supporting the library and its employees through gifts of time, treasure, and expertise. The Friends also provide important connections to our community. We benefit from listening and learning from you. You help us identify partners and build networks. You sponsor lectures, programs, exhibits, and events that enrich ECU students, faculty, and staff as well as the region. Online programs and exhibits remove geographic, accessibility and temporal barriers and open the richness of our resources to the world.

The Friends Board of Directors plays a critical strategic and operational role within the organization. Many Board members have served multiple terms in a variety of roles on committees and as officers – a strong indication that they know that the work they are doing is important and meaningful to the organization and the library. We work continually to identify potential Board members but spring is the time when nominations are presented first to the Board and then at the annual membership meeting. Please consider becoming a member of our Board. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Membership Chair Mike Taylor, President Al Jones, or another Board member. Charlotte Fitz Daniels, Heather White, and I would also love to talk with you more about the Friends.

Stay healthy and safe!

Jan Lewis, Director, Academic Library Services

From the Friends President

Hi to Past, Present, and Future Members of the Friends of the ECU Library.

As President of the Friends of the ECU Library I would like to introduce myself and let you know why I support the Friends. I was a music major at ECU from 1966 to 1970. After working as a music teacher in the Norfolk (VA) Public Schools (1970-74) and after getting my master’s degree in library science at Drexel University (1974-77) I was library director at North Carolina Wesleyan College (1976-82), Elon College (now University) (1982-94), and Catawba College (1985-2000). While at Elon I was awarded the Ph.D. in Information and Library Science (1983-91) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I taught as an adjunct professor of library science at University of North Carolina at Greensboro while working at Catawba.

In 2001 I was hired as an Associate Professor Library Science at ECU in 2001. I am now a Full Professor of Library Science and have served in the Master of Library Science Program for the past 20 years. I have had extensive experience in education-related activities, including public school music teaching (4 years), academic library administration (25 years), and teaching in the Master of Library Science program here at ECU (20 years).
Yes, I’m an old guy, but I have thoroughly enjoyed and continue to enjoy my work in education and librarianship. I have witnessed the meteoric rise of the ECU Library from my days as an ECU student to the present. The ECU Library is an incredible resource for ECU, the community, the state, and the nation.

Being a Friend of the ECU Library is one way to show your support of the students, faculty, and staff of the ECU Library and be a real proud member of the Pirate Nation. I see every day the work the library does to support faculty and student research through resources, expert staff, and technology. Friends are able to check out materials and other materials from the library and access numerous online databases from within the library. Friends are even able to tap the resources of other libraries throughout the state, nation, and world through interlibrary loan services. Since the Covid-19 pandemic descended upon us in the Spring of 2020, the Friends has had to make many adjustments to how we achieve our mission. Our Spring Banquet has traditionally been the main event of the Friends, an opportunity to thank members and share a program featuring local and state authors. Due to Covid-19 and its variants we have not been able to host our Spring Banquet since the spring of 2019. The Friends Board voted at its last quarterly meeting in November 2021 to not have a Spring Banquet this spring of 2022.

Our former President, Mike Taylor, commented after the 2019 banquet that the Friends earned more funds from our silent auction of items donated by Friends than from proceeds of the banquet. This observation served as a starting point for a brain-storming discussion at the November Friends Board meeting. There was a unanimous consensus among Board members that we had to search for other means of building funds for the Friends to provide to the ECU Library. The most promising possibility that surfaced was to investigate what would be a continuous online auction of items for sale to Friends and others. We already have items that we were not able to auction at our last banquet in the spring of 2019.

The most pressing action is to find someone or a company to manage the website. Interestingly, I noted in using Ebay personally that many of the items I purchased were available from charities and Friends of the Library groups throughout the nation. Ideas and volunteers are both welcomed.

This issue of our new newsletter was supported by the Friends Board in a continuing effort to keep the Friends membership informed about education activities sponsored by the Friends in collaboration with Jan Lewis, director of the ECU Main Campus Library, and her talented staff, including Charlotte Fitz Daniels and Heather White. As President of the Friends, I pledge to continue to support all the great events and programs happening in the library but also to find and promote ways to give back to the library through new funding sources. You can help us. We can accomplish nothing without Friends.

Al Jones, President, Friends of the Library
Why am I a member of the Friends of the Library Board?

Well, in the dark ages, when I had a paying job as a community college president, the library was not actually called a library but the learning resource center or LRC. At meetings of community college presidents, one of the things I would hear my colleagues brag about was having 50,000 volumes in their LRC. My college met that lofty goal only after I instructed the LRC Dean to stop “weeding” the collection. Her protest about some nursing manuals in the stacks listing “bleeding” as a proper medical procedure fell on deaf ears!

But seriously, I always recognized our LRC as the center of the college. All our educational programs depended on a strong LRC for support. A lot of success in the classroom began in our two-story LRC. Of course, my LRC Dean would have loved to hear me say that back in the day when what she really thought was, we grossly underfunded the LRC.

My own journey to appreciate the LRC or library, if you will, began at Lenoir Community College in Kinston (69-71). The LRC at LCC was in the center of campus so you had to pass by that newest college building to get anywhere. The LRC also had the most comfortable chairs on campus so it was always good for a pit stop. Not a lot changed concerning my attitude about libraries when I attended East Carolina as an undergrad (76, BS in Social Work) where I tried to avoid having to spend much time in the then much smaller Joyner Library with its main entrance on the mall. Several years later, even work on a Masters in Adult Ed from ECU did not require that many visits to Joyner. If Joyner had been a church, they would have handed me a visitor name tag for my lapel each of my seldom visits!

In time my thinking changed about the importance of the library. In the mid 80’s I began work on an Ed.D in higher education administration. Remember, the early 80’s period was pre-internet. Online did not mean anything because there was no online! Research meant searching the stacks and that I did here at ECU’s Joyner Library, the DH Hill Jr. Library at NC State, and the Kathrine R Everett Law Library at UNC-CH. This was an era when my research began at the card catalog and was collected and stored on “punch cards.” Like I said, dark ages stuff. All that research brought me a new-found appreciation for the library. While working on that most important dissertation, I received a lot of help from dedicated librarians literally all over the state. They not only helped point me in the right directions in the stacks, but kindled a spark that helped me realize just how central the library was to learning.

I hope that belief in a strong library was reflected in my support of our LRC at Stanly Community College during the 21 years I was vice-president and then president there. Not long after retiring, my wife Alice and I were having dinner with longtime friends Johnnee and Danny Rice. During the course of dinner and conversation Johnnee, a member of the Friends Board, casually asked if I would be interested in serving on the board. That simple inquiry began a long association with Joyner through the Friends.
My membership on the Friends Board has also allowed me to meet and greatly appreciate the hardworking Joyner staff, so ably led by Jan Lewis.

I hope that the Friends have gained half as much from my membership on the board as I have from my association with them.

On a recent visit to Joyner, I noticed two things that proved that this was not the library I grew up with. One was the storage space for laptops that were loaners, available to students. The other rack was one that really puzzled me! I asked one of the students at the front desk and she explained the rack in question was a place students could store their skateboards. I am quite sure the expression on my face, after that explanation, let that student assistant know that I really was as old as she had originally thought!

But, as much as it has changed, the library is still the center of learning, just like all those LRC’s I worked with back in the day. I am both proud and honored to be associated with ECU’s main campus library and all it does to support our students, this community, and the region.

Mike Taylor, Secretary, Friends of the Library

Reconsidering The Lost Colony: What We Don’t Know and Why We Don’t Know It?

North Carolinians all know the history of The Lost Colony, but do they? Though the colony lost contact with England in 1587, it did not become THE Lost Colony until the 19th century. Trying to disentangle fact from folklore has complicated research into the fate of the colonists.

"Explorations in Excellence "

Heinerth is one of the world’s premier underwater explorers, and the first person to dive inside iceberg caves. She leads expeditions into extreme environments to advance scientific and geographic knowledge. Join us for this ALS co-sponsored event happening at the Main Campus Student Center on February 17th at 7pm.
Adopt a Book

Academic Library Services is excited to promote the Adopt a Book Program. Through this program, you can support the work of our Preservation/Conservation team and help subsidize the costs associated with the conservation of “at-risk” materials.

Leave your legacy to ensure that these legacies – historical books, rare books, manuscripts and photographs – are available for use by future generations of ECU students and researchers. You can adopt a book, manuscript or other item from our listed collections, which include Maritime, Pirates and Maps. When you adopt an individual item, your donation will go directly to preserving that specific piece in need of repair at the Library. Your support will be recognized and documented in the cataloging record for that item, which captures its history. You may also make a general gift in support of the Preservation/Conservation fund.

Through rehousing, re-matting and general maintenance work to individual pieces, the Adopt a Book Program gives everyone the opportunity to be part of preserving history at East Carolina University.

Friends of the Library Membership Application

Personal Information:

Name:____________________________________________
Spouse: __________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City:_______________________________________________
State:_____________________________________________
Zip:_______________________________________________
Cell Phone:_______________________________________
Email Address:___________________________________

Membership Levels:

☐ Patron's Wall $1,000
☐ Platinum Sponsor $750
☐ Gold Sponsor $500
☐ Silver Sponsor $250
☐ Bronze Sponsor $150
☐ Family $50
☐ Individual Sponsor $35
☐ ECU Faculty, Staff, and Students $25

Where To Mail:
Friends of the Library
2400 Joyner Library, Mail Stop 516
East Carolina University, NC 27858-4353

Join Online: library.ecu.edu