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Library focus

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Tatum Gift Puts Student Employees Front and Center in the Library --James Martin, Dean, University Libraries

On March 28, 2002, The University of Southern Mississippi announced the Mary and Joseph Tatum Student Internship endowment for the University Libraries. The Tatum gift, composed of cash and property valued at over \$1 million, is the largest ever to the University Libraries. The gift represents not only support for USM and its libraries but also Mary and Joseph's commitment to the city of Hattiesburg and Forrest County, since priority for the internships positions goes to children of city and county employees. The student focus of the Tatum gift helps both the library and students. Student employees have always been important to the library-approximately half of our workforce is students. With this gift, private funds help underwrite student work experience. Students make possible the extensive hours the library is open, the staffing of many service desk hours, and the accomplishment of many of the tasks necessary to the work flow of a complex technical organization.

Thus the Tatum gift highlights the role of student employees on campus, and it will greatly enhance their work experience in the library. The library has used the occasion of the gift to review its orientation and training program for all student employees and establish a more formal student development and training series. As part of this effort, this fall's student orientation was made into something of an event. Students were greeted by the dean and associate dean of libraries and then divided into four groups, each led by an enthusiastic and expert librarian. (Suzanne Graham, Meg Meiman, Sarah Spencer, and Shirlene Stogner had the honor.) There were three principal activities. The first was a library tour ensuring that no matter where in the library a student works, he or she has a general idea of other functions and areas in the library-an absolutely essential perspective for helping others. The second activity was a presentation and discussion of work behavior for student employees based on the library's student employee handbook. (We cover extreme stuff like actually showing up for work and when one does show up to remember to be fully clothed.) Finally, a "virtual" scavenger hunt activity required students to navigate the library's Web site in order to find answers to specific questions. These days finding one's way around the library's Web site is as important as finding one's way around the physical library. After this training, one student employee remarked that the orientation was so good he felt "every new student who comes to the university should come to the library's orientation." Presumably it wasn't only the pizza!

To complement and support the initial orientation, the Library has developed a Student Training and Development Series. This fall's activities will include four training events: "Searching Electronic Databases," lead by Meg Meiman, Information Services Librarian; "Book Handling," lead by Irmgard Wolfe, Catalog Librarian; "Telephone Etiquette," lead by Kameron Dale of Human Resources; "Career Planning and Placement-Building Better Resumes," lead by Jim Aviles of Career Counseling, and "The Ten Commandments of Time Management," lead by Mary Beth Bankson, Student Activities Coordinator.

The Internship program itself provides for 13 undergraduate interns and two graduate interns each semester. Depending on student skills, areas of employment to chose from are varied: archival processing, circulation service desk assistance, curriculum materials center assistance, database maintenance, digital imaging, document delivery, government documents, graphics and Web design, information service desk assistance, library instruction, materials processing, music resources service desk assistance, reading room service desk assistance, general reception, special collections service desk assistance, and stacks maintenance. Awards are for one semester, renewable for up to seven additional semesters for undergraduates and three additional semesters for graduate students. To retain internship status, students must maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average and receive at least satisfactory work performance evaluations.

Further information about the Tatum Internship program can be obtained from Teresa Loveless, administrative assistant to the dean of libraries, 266-4241.

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Planned Giving to the USM Libraries Offers Numerous Options --Toby Graham, Head, Special Collections

"When people think about giving," said new Founders' Society member Dr. Thomas Culpepper, "libraries sometimes get the short end of the stick." Often, it does not occur to alumni and friends of the university that a gift to the USM Libraries is an excellent way to support instruction and research across the entire institution.

For Drs. Marilyn and Thomas Culpepper deciding to donate a portion of their estate also was an opportunity to acknowledge the assistance provided to Marilyn Culpepper during her years of research on the Civil War and women's history. "Over a period of at least 15 years," she related, "I have spent many days doing research at the McCain Library and Archives at The University of Southern Mississippi. I have found it to be one of the most resourceful, user- friendly libraries among the 70 or more libraries I have worked in throughout the country."

Marilyn Culpepper conducted research at the McCain Library and Archives for her books *Trials and Triumphs: Women of the Civil War* (1991) and *All Things Altered: Women in the Wake of Civil War and Reconstruction* (2002). The dust jacket of *Trials and Triumphs* features text from the Andrew and Mary E. Burwell letters held at McCain. The Culpeppers are retired faculty from Michigan State University. Thomas Culpepper grew up in Petal, Mississippi, and Marilyn in Lansing, Michigan.

Peggy Price, special collections librarian and one of the USM Library employees who assisted the Culpeppers, responded to news of the planned gift: "What a wonderful lift this is for everyone here, to know that our work is so appreciated."

Susan Hollandsworth, interim executive director of USM's Office of Development and director of the university's comprehensive campaign, said, "We are so appreciative of the Culpeppers' decision to join the Founders' Society and of their support of McCain Library's Special Collection. Private gifts to Southern Miss are critically important."

According to Hollandsworth, "a lasting legacy to Southern Miss is easier than one might imagine. Every gift, whether given through estate planning, cash, pledge, stocks, bonds, or an in-kind gift, plays a vital role in the success of the university."

Hollandsworth said numerous options - such as wills, trust arrangements, gift annuities, life estates, life insurance, and retirement plans - are available through estate planning that allow donors to invest in the university's future. "Development professionals are available through the foundation to assist donors in exploring giving options," she said.

Any amount or portion of an estate qualifies for membership in the Founders' Society, which was organized to recognize donors and to encourage the support of others. In addition, donors are free to designate how their gift will be used, including for the support of the USM Libraries.

Currently there are 350 members in the Founders' Society, and USM's goal is to reach 500 by the end of the comprehensive campaign in 2004. Anyone who is not listed in the Founders' Society but who has included the university in his or her estate plans is asked to contact the USM Foundation. Information packets on any giving options may be obtained by calling the Office of Development at (601) 266-5602.

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Ezra Jack Keats Volume Released

--Dee Jones, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection of the University Libraries is pleased to announce the release of a publication celebrating the creative works of children's author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats. *Ezra Jack Keats: A Bibliography and Catalogue* (Pelican Publishing, 2002), was compiled by Brian Alderson, an international authority in children's literature. This book is the culmination of a decade of research conducted by Alderson at the de Grummond Collection, which is the repository for the extensive Keats archive of illustration and manuscript materials. This new publication is a companion to Alderson's first volume, *Ezra Jack Keats: Artist and Picture-Book Maker* (Pelican 1994).

Born in 1916, Keats spent his entire life in the multi-ethnic neighborhoods of New York City, and his work reflected his sensitivity to the social issues of the time. An innovative creator of picture books, he received the prestigious Caldecott Medal in 1963 for his ground breaking work in *The Snowy Day*. At the time of his death in 1983, Keats had written or illustrated more than 85 books for children.

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Resources for Research in Women's Studies

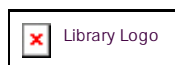
--Carol Green, Serials Librarian and co-chair USM Committee on Services and Resources for Women

In recognition of Women's History Month last March, USM Libraries and the Committee on Services and Resources for Women (CSRW) collaborated on a Web site highlighting some of the many Women's Studies resources available in the Libraries' collections. Resources for Research in Women's Studies at USM Libraries, which will be updated each semester, can be accessed directly at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/womensstudies/>. It can also be accessed from the Libraries' home page. Click on "Databases," then choose Women's Studies from "Databases & Web Resources by Subject" where the Web site is listed under "Libraries, Archives and Museums."

The Web site is divided into two sections. Browse "General Works" to see examples of books, databases, government documents, journals, reference sources, videos, and Web resources available in USM Libraries. Currently the "Special Topics" section provides a list of Mississippi women writers, examples of works by women composers, information on the Women and Civil Rights manuscript collections in the USM Archives, and a bibliography of resources for research in Women and Gender Studies in McCain Library's de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. Also highlighted are Lena de Grummond, Charlemae Hill Rollins, and Emilie Stapp - all important women in the field of children's literature. To discover even more resources relating to women, browse the online catalog or visit the collections of Cook Library, McCain Library and Archives, and the USM Gulf Coast Library.

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Presenting the newest addition to USM Libraries: The USM Gulf Coast Library

--Kathy Davis, Supervisor of Information Services

When the new USM Gulf Coast Library opened its doors on August 19, students and faculty on the Gulf Park campus quickly settled into the three-story, 54,000 square foot library, taking advantage of tours and seeking out their favorite spots to study.

The most frequently heard comments are, "You mean there's a third floor, too?!" and expressions of approval over the beauty and spaciousness of the new building. The new structure is six times the size of the three buildings that formerly housed the main collection, curriculum collection, and media center. The larger space houses the once jam-packed collections, with room to grow, and allows for long needed student carrels, tables, and group studies.

The USM Gulf Coast Library was designed by Studio South Architects, PLLC, and built by Roy Anderson Construction. Vikki Randall of Vikki Randall Designs served as the interior designer. The stucco library features a central staircase, cherry paneling and finishes throughout, earth and jewel tone colors, ceramic tile flooring, and abundant natural light. The facility includes a 24/7 study, two conference rooms, seven group study rooms, a learning lab, a library instruction room, and a media center. The circulation desk, journals and newspapers, and the Gulf Park College for Women Heritage Collection are housed on the first floor. Reference, the curriculum collection, library administration, and the media center are located on the second floor. The general collection, group studies, and quiet study areas are located on the third floor. Lounge, table, and carrel seating are located throughout the building.

The new library serves students and faculty attending USM on the Gulf Coast campuses and includes a collection of approximately 70,000 items, plus microform, journal, video, and curriculum collections. Hattiesburg faculty teaching Gulf Coast students through IVN or on campus can contact the Gulf Coast Library Circulation Desk (54510) for questions about reserves. Librarians Kathy Davis (78760) or Donnelle Scott (78767) can provide information about library instruction, tours, or adding materials to the collection. Off-campus telephone numbers are Circulation (228) 865-4510, Reference (228) 867-8761, and Media Center (228) 865-4543.

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Books, Bytes, and Bibliographic Instruction

--Meg Meiman, Information Services Librarian

When many people hear the phrase "library instruction," they often associate it with a tour of a building or an introduction to an online catalog (or, in the case of undergraduates, a sure fire cure for insomnia). Yet library instruction at USM's Cook Library extends beyond these preliminary gestures to include a variety of general and specialized classes addressing a diverse group of library patrons. The faculty and staff within the Information Services Department design, coordinate, and conduct these classes for USM's population, and teach not only brand-new undergraduates, but also graduate students, faculty members, and people from the community.

Exactly what our librarians teach depends, of course, upon the class. For undergraduate students and other patrons new to USM, we offer an Information Online session, in which we introduce students to Anna, the library catalog, as well as a few general databases. We also show new patrons the online user guides, which offer "how-to" instructions-how to find an article, use a database, and build a Web page-and provide resources for book reviews, speech and paper topics, and particular subjects. These introductory classes are usually aimed at students enrolled in University 101, Speech Communication 111, and English 102.

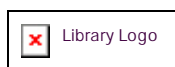
Professors often request sessions tailored to the class subject or assignment, in which case we demonstrate subject-specific databases and direct students to specialized resources in their area of study. This semester, librarians have taught specialized classes on resources in such areas as nursing, education, clinical psychology, art history, government documents, legal resources, English, history, speech communication, social work, hospitality management, and polymer science. Additionally, librarians at the McCain Library and Archives provided instruction on archival research and the study of children's literature.

Librarians teach "where" and "how." While we offer orientations showing patrons the physical location of books, journals, and other materials, we also teach others precisely how to find a book or article, how to use specialized databases, how to evaluate Internet sites, and how to use services provided by USM Libraries, such as document delivery and off-campus database access. Additionally, we endeavor to teach patrons the continual process of research itself, explaining both basic and advanced search techniques, and directing users to resources they might not immediately consider relevant to their field of interest.

These educational efforts have paid off, as demand for library instruction appears to be going up. By mid-September, 135 classes with 700 students had been scheduled for the fall term. And while some of those students still find it tempting to nod off during library instruction, many return-voluntarily-to not only learn more about the library's resources, but also how to effectively navigate and better understand them.

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New Policies for Cook 'book Computers and Research Carrels

Beginning this fall, the USM Libraries initiated charging for the use of Cook 'book notebook computers and research carrels in order to maintain these services. The 16 Cook 'books were used more than 12,000 times during 2001-02. A charge of \$3 per use during library hours and \$5 for the "Night Owl" overnight checkout will assist in maintaining the equipment and accessories. Zip drives and headphones also are available for use with the Cook 'books.

The 77 research carrels are available to current USM faculty, staff, and students on a first come, first served basis for a rental fee of \$50 per semester. For more information on these and other services, contact Cook Library Administration at 266-4241.

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Easy Access to Databases Off-Campus with EZ Proxy --Mary Hamilton, Document Delivery Librarian

Searching the USM Libraries databases from home is now fast, easy and pain free with the library's new EZ Proxy service. This new system requires no user intervention, no browser reconfiguration, and no special ID numbers or passwords. All you need to access over 120 databases from off-campus is your 10-digit USM ID number.

Search the USM Libraries databases from off campus in three easy steps:

Go to the Information Online page at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~libinfo>
Select the database you would like to search
Enter your 10-digit USM ID number.

The new proxy service begins a unique, cookie-based session with each authorized user. Once authorization has been granted, users may move freely from database to database without reentering their information.

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Anytime, Anywhere Access to Ebooks

--Sarah Spencer, Information Services Librarian

Gutenberg could not have imagined this!

Electronic books have arrived at the USM Libraries. The libraries' holdings recently increased substantially through the acquisition of a collection of 27,000 unique titles in electronic format. This group of e-books, known as netLibrary, contains a wide range of research, reference, and reading titles. The libraries' e-books can be accessed through a netLibrary link in the list of "Databases by Title" on the libraries' Information Online Web page at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~libinfo/>.

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