Voices of Mississippi women from the past beckon visitors viewing the historical “In Her Own Words” exhibit at the J.D. Williams Library.

Hosted in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, the exhibition chronicles the lives of Mississippi women from the antebellum period through the present. It focuses not only on well-known women, including Eudora Welty, Ellen Douglas, Beth Henley and Theora Hamblott, but also on lesser-known women whose voices may have once been heard only as a whisper, if at all.

“This was a new topic for us to explore in an exhibition format, and we wanted to devote an entire space to the project,” said Jennifer Ford, director of archives and special collections. “We hope that people will take away impressions not only of women who were famous but also of ordinary women whose daily lives are so fascinating.”

For the exhibit, numerous artifacts from the library’s permanent collection are on display in 18 cases in the Faulkner Room on the library’s third floor. Of note are items related to University of Mississippi women, including Sarah Isom, its first female faculty member. The Sarah Isom Center for Women, established at the university in 1981 to address the changing roles and expectations of female students, faculty and staff, was named for her.

Though not part of this exhibit, the library maintains the Sarah Isom Center for Women Collection, which includes administrative paperwork and personal subject files. Much of the archive comprises the papers of Jan Hawks, founding director of the center.

“The Isom Center is forward-thinking but not without honoring our past, a retrospection that inspires our continued momentum,” said Mary Carruth, current director. Artifacts representing lesser-known Mississippi women include:

• From the yellowed pages of a pocket diary, Belle Edmondson recalls spying during the Civil War to gather information to aid Confederate troops.
• Correspondence from the pen of Roxana Chapin Gerding, wife of a Southern plantation owner during the mid-1800s, to her family in Massachusetts, reveals her struggle facing the reality of having slaves in her household after leaving her birth relatives, who were so opposed to slavery.
• A paper titled “The Forgotten Woman,” written around 1950 by Mary McGuire, who proclaimed herself as “an American Negro woman born in the state of Mississippi,” offers a unique perspective on race, feminism and related problems of the day.
• A personal journal, written by Mary Edmondson, an unmarried 25-year-old, in the 1850s, expresses discontent with her romantic prospects and reflects the tremendous societal pressure to marry, a common dilemma many single Southern white women faced during that era.
• Letters written by Virginia Nelson

Inside
Dean’s message .................. 2
Podcasts, instant messages improve access .................. 2
Exhibit hails state’s role in past U.S. presidencies .......... 4

Library leads recycling efforts at UN .................. 6
New book gives Confederate soldier a voice .................. 7
Former Miss America regales library .................. 11
Past meets present
Library goes high-tech with chat service and podcast

The J.D. Williams Library offers a user-friendly environment not only within its beautiful brick building but also via the Internet and related technology.

Two cutting-edge projects currently under way are a virtual reference chat service that uses free Web 2.0 applications and a podcast library tour that employs MP3 technology.

The chat service allows users to communicate with librarians in real time.

"A user does not need to have an instant-messaging account to do this," said Debra Riley-Huff, Web services librarian and the project's coordinator.

"It accepts sessions from MSN Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger, Google Talk and AIM," she said.

All instant-messaging sessions come into the library's central reference desk through Pidgin, a Web 2.0 IM aggregator.

"Soon we will also be testing the placement of our Meebo chat widget inside the online library catalog and points where we envision — or know — people are getting stuck," Riley-Huff said.

Using these freely available IM technologies represents a cost savings for the library. The Web 2.0 applications are in the beta testing phase, with plans to go live at the end of the spring semester.

The podcast working group, including four librarians and a staff member, is developing three podcasts that provide a walking tour of the library.

"In addition to pointing out various collections and services in the building, the podcasts will include information about several little mysteries in the library such as the printers' marks in the stairwells, the Patterson statue, the Baxter Room and exhibition cases," said the project's coordinator, Buffy Choiniski, professor and head of the science library.

The service is expected to be completed by summer. Once the Web site goes live, a user will be able to download audio and photographs using an MP3 player and then go to the library to take the tour. End users can also take the tour via the Internet.

The podcast includes photos of each location to help listeners follow along and includes prompts when it is time to pause the audio so they can move to the next location, Choiniski said.

The project was made possible in part with a monetary gift from Carl Lindgren (BAE 72, MEd 77, EdS 93) of Courtland. Lindgren's support for the library also includes the donation of several book collections, including a large collection on the Rosicrucian Order and other fraternal orders.

Working with Choiniski on the podcast project are Judy Greenwood, interlibrary loan and document delivery librarian and assistant professor; Michael Hawkins, library specialist in technical services; Greg Johnson, blues curator and assistant professor; and Elizabeth Stephan, reference business resource librarian and assistant professor.

Besides Riley-Huff, others in the virtual reference group are Choiniski and Stephan, Ryan Johnson, head of information outreach and delivery services and associate professor, and Royce Kurtz, reference librarian and associate professor.
Student pursues library profession

Wesley Byrd Lucas of Pascagoula followed in his parents’ footsteps when he entered The University of Mississippi. Now a senior expecting to graduate in May, Lucas says Ole Miss has created a path for his future.

A double major in history and anthropology, Lucas plans to pursue graduate studies in library science in preparation for a career as an archivist in a research library at a university. He credits his job in Access Services at the J.D. Williams Library not only for financial assistance but also for opening his eyes to what may become his profession.

“We is a very bright, capable worker who has a genuine affinity for library work,” said Stan Whitehorn, the library’s operations manager/head of access services. “He is not content to just merely show up and pass the time; he likes libraries and understands their role in a university’s mission.”

“To be honest, I had little direction for my future before I got my current job in the library, which put order and structure in my life. I feel very comfortable in this environment, and archiving fits well with my interests in history and anthropology,” said Lucas. “Helping preserve pieces of history just happens to be something I like to do. Knowing where we came from and what came before us keeps us humble and allows us to see things in a different perspective. We cannot know ourselves without knowing our past.”

Library gets own roadside attraction

Now readers are sure to see the University Libraries coming.

Thanks to unrestricted donations, the library is the proud owner of a new blue 2008 Dodge Durango.

The vehicle plays an important role in continuing education for faculty and staff and in developing relationships with donors.

“We now have a way to visit donors, potential and otherwise, that is safe,” said Stan Whitehorn, the library’s operations manager/head of access services. In addition to development trips, the vehicle is used by faculty and staff traveling to attend conferences and professional meetings. It is also used by staff to transport rare and valuable collections to the library.

“It is a need the library had but would have been unable to meet with its state-funded budget,” said Michael Upton, library development officer.
In September, all eyes will be on The University of Mississippi when it hosts the nominees for U.S. president in the first of three presidential debates. Many UM departments plan to host events and sponsor activities to complement the debate and pending election throughout the fall semester.

The University Libraries will unveil "Hail to the Chief," an exhibit featuring U.S. presidents and Mississippi’s role in past presidential elections in August. Items on display, all from the Department of Archives and Special Collections and its Modern Political Archives unit, will include letters, photographs, books, campaign materials and other memorabilia.

"Most of the items on display will be from collections given by individuals and families with strong ties to the university," said Leigh McWhite, political papers archivist. "This exhibit would not be possible without the generosity of donors."

Among the prized items are personal letters, including a handwritten note from Franklin D. Roosevelt to U.S. Senator Pat Harrison — sent along with an I.O.U following a game of poker. The senator’s widow, Mary Edwina McTinney Harrison, donated her husband’s records to the university in 1941-42.

In another handwritten letter, John F. Kennedy thanks Sen. James O. Eastland for his assistance with the Mississippi delegation during the 1960 Democratic National Convention. Eastland gave his papers to the university following his retirement from public office in 1978.

Other intriguing documentation includes Andrew Johnson’s pardon of a Confederate soldier, an 1807 biography of George Washington by David Ramsay, who was part of the Continental Congress himself, and an invitation for William Faulkner to Dwight D.

Political cartoons on display
The art of Clifford K. Berryman

An exhibit of original political cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman featuring U.S. Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi is currently on display on the second floor of the J.D. Williams Library. It will remain on view through the presidential debate in September.

Most of the cartoons are from the Modern Political Archives’ Pat Harrison Collection. One cartoon — featuring President Franklin D. Roosevelt — is from the Felton M. Johnston Collection. Before serving as secretary of the U.S. Senate from 1955-64, Johnston was a clerk in the Senate Finance Committee under Harrison. The Johnston Collection was donated by his son and daughter, Felton M. Johnston Jr. and Wanda Wray Chaffield.
Eisenhower’s second inaugural ball.
Several items, including a photograph of William H. Taft at the celebration of the 120th anniversary of George Washington’s inauguration, a menu from a dinner hosted in Taft’s honor in Jackson and an album autographed by the entire Teddy Roosevelt family, including the president, his wife and children, are from the W.T. Marshall Collection. Marshall served as an unofficial librarian in the White House during the administrations of William McKinley through Franklin D. Roosevelt. Marshall’s daughter, Violet Marshall Douglas, donated to the collection from the 1950s through the 1970s.
Recent presidents are also included in some eye-catching pieces. From the Willie Morris Collection are a 1971 letter Bill Clinton wrote to the Mississippi author and a George H.W. Bush baseball card featuring the former president in his Yale team uniform.
The exhibit will open Aug. 18 in the Faulkner Room of the J.D. Williams Library and will stay up for at least one year. The public may view the display weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Professors are encouraged to use the exhibit as a teaching tool, and the archives will sponsor at least one related community-outreach program.

What our leaders read
Great leaders are often influenced by great literature. A recent exhibit in the John D. Williams Library featured book recommendations from some of UM’s current leaders. Here are their picks:

Robert Khayat, Chancellor
The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand
Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry
The Firm by John Grisham
Centennial by James Michener
Jaber Crow by Wendell Berry
Johnny U: The Life & Times of Johnny Unitas by Tom Callahan

Julia Rhodees, Dean of Libraries
My Antonio by Willa Cather
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Angela’s Ashes: A Memoir by Frank McCourt
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

Carolyn Staton, Provost
Huey Long by T. Harry Williams
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America by John M. Barry
In the Bedrooms: 7 Stories by Andre Dubus

Dr. Donald Cole, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Assistant to the Chancellor for Multicultural Affairs
Black Boy by Richard Wright
Encyclopedia of African-American Civil Rights: From Emancipation to the Present edited by Charles D. Lowery and John F. Marszalek
Native Set Theory by Paul R. Halmo
An American Insurrection: James Meredith and the Battle of Oxford, Mississippi, 1962 by William Doyle

Dr. Charlotte Fans, Registrar and Director of Admissions
A Time to Kill by John Grisham
Temptation by Victoria Christopher Murray
The Holy Bible, King James Version
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
I know Why the Caged Bird Sings
by Maya Angelou

Keywords • Page 5
Pitching In
Library leads campus in recycling efforts for plastic and aluminum

A mericans are thirsting for water in portable plastic bottles like never before, and the nation’s recycling efforts aren’t keeping up with consumption.

This is true at The University of Mississippi, where paper and cardboard are collected for recycling but plastic and aluminum are not.

To combat the trash, the UMF Staff Council’s recycling committee began a pilot program last fall for recycling those items. So far, four campus buildings are involved, including the J.D. Williams Library, where Stan Whitehorn, the library’s operations manager/head of access services, is leading the efforts.

“We have found that most people will recycle if given the opportunity,” Whitehorn said.

Since the project began last fall, at least 9,000 plastic bottles and aluminum cans have been collected from the four campus locations, including an estimated 4,000 from the library, said Benita Whitehorn, assistant director of publications and a member of the recycling committee.

The recycling committee has submitted a report to James Morrison, assistant to the senior vice chancellor for planning and operations, in an effort to make the project campuswide. They have also met with the student organization Roots and Shoots, whose members have agreed to begin collecting plastic and aluminum in additional campus buildings.

Also, the city of Oxford has agreed to donate a dumpster to hold the recyclable items.

“Surely 9,000 plastic bottles and aluminum cans being recycled is better than 9,000 plastic bottles and aluminum cans in a landfill,” Benita Whitehorn said. “Imagine how the numbers would rise if the entire university pitched in.”

Keywords • Page 6

Gifts support ‘heart of university’
by Anna Stephens

F ormer UM vice chancellor Dr. Harvey Lewis and his wife, Dr. Di Ann Lewis, have established a planned gift through the university’s 1848 Society to the Charles E. Noyes Library Endowment Fund.

“Dr. Noyes was a great asset to me in the office, and he always has been to the university,” said Lewis. “Just knowing him and knowing how much he valued Friends of the Library helped us realize we wanted to do this.”

Noyes, a UM professor and administrator emeritus, retired in 1982 after nearly 40 years at Ole Miss. The fund, established in 1992 by Friends of the Library to honor Noyes, has garnered more than $94,000 in gifts used to purchase books and resources for the University Libraries.

“I deeply appreciate what the Lewises are doing,” said Noyes. “I worked under Dr. Lewis, and I value our association. I think the library is the heart of any university.”

The Lewises live in Jackson, and their ties to higher education are spread throughout the state. Their philanthropic loyalty to Ole Miss began in 1973, when Harvey served on the committee responsible for chartering the University of Mississippi Foundation as a separate entity from the Alumni Association.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Harvey Lewis taught in the UM School of Business Administration. He was recognized as professor of the year in 1977, and he later served as the director of the Mississippi School of Banking and then as vice chancellor for academic affairs under Chancellor Porter Fortune. An asset to the administration during a turbulent time in university history, he served for three years on the chancellor’s Committee for Black Student Concerns.

“We made some great strides in moving the university along,” Lewis said.

Di Ann Lewis, also an MSU alumna, taught in the UM School of Education for much of her career. She later became director of the state’s first gifted education program, a part of the Lafayette County school system. She now works for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning in Jackson.

The 1848 Society was established in 1998, the university’s 150th year. The society recognizes alumni and friends of the university who have funded or planned a deferred gift. For more information on planning a gift, contact Michael Upton at mupson@olemiss.edu or 662-915-3027.

Anna Stephens is a student intern in University Development.

Drs. Harvey and Di Ann Lewis
Archivist inspired by Civil War soldier

by Lori Simpson

"It (war) all sounds very well on paper, crimson glory and unending fame, but when you see men falling all around you, and others hobbling off the field, groaning and with the blood streaming from their wounds, you think very little of such things."

With such words, a young Civil War soldier inspired Jennifer Ford, associate professor and director of archives and special collections in the J.D. Williams Library, to write her first book, *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony (University of Tennessee Press, 2007)*. It is based on a collection of letters comprising Lt. William Cowper Nelson's wartime correspondence with his family in his native Holly Springs. The letters were donated to the library in 2002.

The book follows Nelson, who left UM in 1861 to join Confederate forces, as he is transformed from an idealistic young soldier to a battle-hardened veteran. The letters, now available for viewing in the library, were donated by Nelson's descendant, Susan "Sudy" Seals of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

It took Ford more than a year to edit the letters. In order to better understand people and places for the book's appendices, she traveled to Jackson many Saturday mornings to do research at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which has a complete set of soldiers' military records.

Her research produced more than 1,000 footnotes for the book. "I find that sometimes notes help people understand more about the life of the person they are reading about," she said.

"The book has already earned special recognition: It is included in the *Voices of the Civil War* series, edited by Peter Carmichael, a professor of Civil War studies at West Virginia University.

"Of the 35 titles that have been published in the series, Jennifer Ford's *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony* is one of the most important volumes published to date," Carmichael said. "William Cowper Nelson, unlike so many of his peers, did not restore the war as a heroic event. He was very aware and very open as to how the horrors of army life tore away at his humanity, but such reflections did not undermine his commitment to the Confederate cause."

Ford said she hopes those who read the book will better appreciate what it was like for a young man to leave everything and everyone behind to fight for a cause during a bloody time in America's past.

"I hope that they will get an understanding that this is one person caught in a very confusing and difficult time in our nation's history," she said.

"Lori Simpson is a student intern in the Office of Media and Public Relations."

Librarian's research stars the silver screen

Using films to augment print materials is an increasingly common teaching tool at higher-education institutions around the country, and the University of Mississippi is no exception. As is the case with many library materials, identifying and making accessible the most desirable film titles can be difficult. At the John D. Williams Library, this challenge falls in part to Michelle Emanuel, catalog librarian and assistant professor.

To assist her efforts, Emanuel recently received a $3,000 grant to spend two weeks in Paris in September, where she'll visit major film libraries in the region to analyze and evaluate the collections and services they provide visiting scholars.

The grant is sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries' Western European Studies Section and Coatts Nijhoff International, the University of Mississippi editions division of Coatts Information Services, which provides book and eBook services to academic libraries and information organizations.

"The growing importance of film studies in many academic fields, as well as the challenges of identifying and accessing a full range of relevant primary and secondary research materials, suggests that Dr. Emanuel's timely survey of Parisian resource centers will provide valuable guidance for librarians and for the students and faculty they serve," said Bryan Skib, collection development officer at the University of Michigan Libraries and award chair of the grant-selection committee.

The primary criterion for the grant is the significance and utility of the proposed project as a contribution to the study of the acquisition, organization, or use of library materials from or relating to Western Europe.

"I've always been interested in film and film studies, and, in my work here, I wear a number of hats, including that of media cataloger," Emanuel said. "So I work with films all day, and, as subject selector for the Department of Modern Languages, I frequently recommend the purchase of foreign films for the library's collection."

Keywords • Page 7
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Keywords • Page 10
Miss America crowns University Libraries a top priority

Books and a love for the written word sparked a three-way friendship more than 50 years ago between a University of Mississippi freshman and two English professors that has stood the test of time.

Mary Ann Mobley Collins, who was a member of the class of 1958, was crowned Miss America in 1959 and went on to become a successful actress and documentary filmmaker, plans to return to campus in May for her 50th class reunion. A highlight of her visit, she said, will be seeing her longtime friends, professors emeriti Charles Noyes and John Pilkington.

Speaking by telephone recently from her home in Beverly Hills, Calif., Collins reflected on her days at the university and her affection for the two English professors who joined the faculty in the early 1950s.

“I worshiped the ground they walked on,” she said. “People would come just to sit in on their classes. I can only hope that Ole Miss students today have professors as amazing as John Pilkington and Chuck Noyes.”

Collins has visited with them on occasional trips to Oxford over the years, and they have exchanged correspondence with her.

“Both of them fueled my love for the written word,” Collins said.

And perhaps that common bond and the fact that all three genuinely care about Ole Miss account for their longtime mutual admiration.

Collins praised Pilkington and Noyes for continuing to work with the J.D. Williams Library since retiring from the faculty more than 20 years ago. Their efforts have included increasing membership in the Friends of the Library annual-giving club and spending hours matching books and resources with the library’s needs.

Collins is a member of the Friends group and has become a staunch supporter of the library in other ways, including by making donations to endowments honoring Noyes and Pilkington and by contributing to the Friends of the Library Endowment.

“If I can attempt to say thank you to Ole Miss and to Dr. Pilkington and Dr. Noyes by giving to the library, it’s my responsibility and my joy to do this,” she said.

She encourages other alumni who had the privilege of studying under them to also give in their honor.

“None of us can be only takers in this life, especially when it comes to something that makes your life so much better,” she said. She first read it soon after being named Miss America and moving to New York.

“Norwood Baker, treasurer of Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., moved to New York to head the American Association of Colleges and Universities, and I rented a room from her,” Collins said. “She recommended the book to me after I asked, ‘How do you explain the love we all have for a back home? For anyone who leaves Mississippi, Walker Alexander Percy writes it so incredibly beautifully.’

Despite her illustrious career in the performing arts and other successes, Collins continues her love affair not only with her alma mater but also with her state.

Collins belongs to a First Editions Club through Lemuria Book Store in Jackson and receives one or two signed first editions each month.

“When I have a moment to read, I pick up one of those books, including recently From Manhattan to Mississippi by Daisy Karam-Read,” Collins said. “I find it so intriguing. I was from the South and lived in New York, and this book is about a New Yorker who falls in love with the South.”

Books have been prominent in Collins’ life for as long as she can remember. An all-time favorite is Lanterns on the Levee by Walker Alexander Percy.

Mary Ann Mobley Collins through the years and with husband, Gary Collins, performing in the “Miss-issippi Rising” concert held at U of I in 2005

Keywords: Page 11
Upcoming Exhibits and Programs

“In Her Own Words: An Exhibition of Mississippi Women” (Exhibit) through August 2008
Faulkner Room, J.D. Williams Library

“Political Cartoons of Clifford K. Berryman” (Exhibit) through fall 2008
Second Floor, J.D. Williams Library

“Travel in Books and Videos Before You Go In Person: The Croft Institute for International Studies Provides Library Material” (Exhibit) through fall 2009
Second Floor, J.D. Williams Library

“Hail to the Chief?: An Exhibit Featuring U.S. Presidents and Mississippi in Presidential Elections” (Exhibit) opening Aug. 22, 2008
Faulkner Room, J.D. Williams Library

The University of Mississippi J.D. Williams Library

Web site resources at your fingertips

Technology has changed the way libraries operate and provide services to their patrons. Gone are the days of the card catalogs that contained long rows of index cards. Today library catalogs are found on library Web sites, allowing for almost immediate response to a patron’s searches and offering much more information than the old cards held.

The University Libraries’ Web site, www.olemiss.edu/library, is a gateway that provides information and services to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other patrons. We hope you visit it often for updates on library news, activities and services. In particular, I hope you will spend some time looking at our newly redesigned library development page. To access it, click on the Giving to the Libraries icon on the library home page.

This site provides valuable information about contributing to the University Libraries. It covers topics such as ways to give to the libraries and explains why supporting the libraries is important. It features profiles of donors who have generously supported the University Libraries and allows access to archived copies of Keywords. The site also provides visitors an opportunity to donate via a secure online giving page.

We greatly appreciate the University Libraries’ supporters. In addition to recognizing them in the annual donor list published in Keywords, we now have an online donor recognition page that allows us to thank those who have shared their generosity with the libraries.

This page is located on The University of Mississippi Foundation Web site, www.umf.olemiss.edu.

Please feel free to contact me personally with anything I might be able to help you with at 662-915-3027 or mupton@olemiss.edu. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you face to face and look forward to meeting many more of our library supporters in the future. Together we can make sure that the heartbeat of the university continues to be strong.

Sincerely,

Michael Upton
Development Officer