

ACORN Chronicle

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**Alexander donation
a 'national treasure'
for library**

Come on Along!



Special Collections welcomes Sen. Alexander's donation of papers



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

(above) Nissan CEO Marvin Runyon and Lamar Alexander shake hands as the first Sentra rolls off the production line in March 1985. Alexander was instrumental in drawing both Japanese manufacturing and the auto industry to Tennessee. (top of page) As Tennessee's governor, Lamar Alexander addresses the crowd at his inauguration in January 1983.

One of Vanderbilt's most well-known graduates, U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (BA'62) and his wife, Honey Alexander, have made one of the most important donations in the Jean and Alexander Heard Library's history by giving their pre-Senate papers to Special Collections.

The collection contains a wealth of historical documents from Alexander's political campaigns, his two terms as governor, Honey Alexander's roles as wife, mother, first lady and advocate for family causes, along with the senator's correspondence with close friend and author Alex Haley. Papers from Alexander's tenure as president of the University of Tennessee and U.S. secretary of education are also included.

"Honey and I felt that the archives should reflect the voices of the countless Tennesseans who have worked with us to raise educational standards, attract indus-



RUSTY RUSSELL

Sen. Alexander (left) and Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos share a light moment at the September opening of the exhibit.

try and build confidence among the state's residents," Alexander said. "To support this, Vanderbilt's libraries have already begun an oral history project recording the stories of those who played major roles."

The collection speaks richly of Alexander's two terms as governor, which began in 1979 when America was still pulling itself out of the Watergate quagmire and struggling to regain confidence in its political leadership. Alexander's pre-Sen-



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*Sen. Alexander relaxes on a porch swing in Henning, Tenn., with author Alex Haley. It was here that Haley first heard the stories that led to his book *Roots*.*

ate papers reflect the challenges that Republicans across the country faced during the 1980s along with the opportunities in education and business development that he and other state leaders identified and moved forward.

"An archive of papers such as Senator Alexander's enables Vanderbilt students and faculty to conduct original research—to reveal nuances and details hidden in the historical record, producing new insights

and new questions about matters of great significance," said Carolyn Dever, dean of the College of Arts and Science.

"Sen. Alexander's unique set of experiences as governor, U.S. secretary of education, university president and presidential candidate comprise an archive that will be a national treasure mined by scholars for generations," said Connie Vinita Dowell, dean of libraries. "This is clearly one of Vanderbilt's most important collections."



RUSTY RUSSELL

Sen. Alexander demonstrates an interactive display for (counterclockwise from bottom left) Memphis attorney and former Alexander state commissioner Lewis Donelson, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Alexander's Deputy Chief of Staff and State Director Patrick Jaynes at the exhibit opening.

"Come on along! Lamar Alexander's Journey as Governor," opened in September in the Central Library's newly renovated galleries. It will be on display through August 12, 2012. Included in the exhibit are photos and memorabilia highlighting Alexander's 1,000-mile walk across Tennessee, instrumental in his election success, his historic early swearing-in as governor which brought a halt to outgoing Gov. Ray Blanton's pardoning of convicted murderers, and Alexander's education innovations. A special highlight is the successful Homecoming '86 celebration, co-chaired by Alex Haley and Minnie Pearl, which provided Tennesseans an opportunity to rediscover their past and identify the uniqueness of their communities. His piano performances with Tennessee symphonies and on the Grand Ole Opry are also featured.

GOING BEYOND GOOGLE

Instructional librarians teach students, faculty how to find information they need

Libraries are places of research and learning, but teaching is also a core function of a library. As information resources grow, the task of sifting through academic databases to find the best information becomes more difficult. Librarians throughout the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries specialize in research instruction—some

even teach full courses—and the libraries now provide special classrooms geared toward teaching.

“I always see myself as a teacher,” says Lee Ann Lannom, librarian at Peabody Library. “Not always in a traditional sense, but always as a teacher.” By teaching a research session for a course, she helps students learn to master the library, familiarizing them with available databases, their specialties and how to search in them.

Lannom is well-suited to her role. “I love the hunt for information,” she says. “I like to look for that needle in a haystack.”

New teaching spaces in the Central Library—part of the recent \$6 million renovation—offer librarians and professors the opportunity to meld the library into the classroom. Two dedicated classrooms were added during the renovation on the fourth and eighth floors, and a new conference room is prioritized for instructional use. About 70 sessions have already been held in the new classrooms.

“Classrooms were a key part of my goals with the renovation,” says Dean of Libraries Connie Vinita Dowell, “Teaching is one of the most important things we do.”

“We’ve had so much positive feedback on the new classrooms,” says Melinda Brown, instruction coordinator for the libraries. In the new fourth-floor space, desks are easily moved into clusters for group projects or set in traditional rows for lectures. Dual screens and a document camera make it easy to conduct critical examinations of rare source documents. Comfortable chairs, loaner laptops and wireless access allow students real-time opportunities to practice research methods using the library’s more than 300 electronic databases.

Library specialists also write Web-based library guides, or “Libguides,” that direct students to course- or topic-specific resources, services and more.

Kitty Porter has seen a lot of changes in her decades-long career as a librarian. “People didn’t used to do their own searches,” she recalls. “The librarians did the searches for them.” Today, she teaches a popular course for both undergraduate and graduate students focused on the nuances of searching the vast amount of chemical literature available through the Science and Engineering Library and how to best use it.

“It’s important to know where to look and how to look,” she says. “We can help with that.”



JOHN RUSSELL

Instructional librarians Lee Ann Lannom (left) and Kitty Porter in the Central Library's fourth-floor classroom.

RESEARCH PROJECTS OPEN DOORS FOR STUDENT INTERNS

Every day, Vanderbilt students head into the university's libraries to conduct research toward their degrees. For some of these students, the chance to do research in the library opens doors for their careers.

That doesn't surprise Carolyn Dever, dean of the College of Arts and Science. "Students benefit from their work in the library just as they do from work in any other laboratory on our campus: to lay their hands on materials, to explore and investigate, gives them a chance to advance their learning experientially," she said.



Liz Norell says that researching the Alexander Papers was a perfect marriage of research, library skills and politics.

Liz Norell, who received a master's in political science this year, helped identify items for exhibition from the pre-Senate papers recently donated to Vanderbilt's Special Collections by U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander and his wife, Honey Alexander. (See story, page 2.) Working with archivists to sort through the 660 cubic feet of materials has provided an entirely new dimension to Norell's education.

"As a student of American politics, this has been amazing," she said. "It's an opportunity to learn about history that's not been recorded yet."

Working on the Alexander Papers has also allowed Norell, who also holds a master's in library science, to see what it would be like to be an academic librarian. She describes her internship as a "perfect marriage" of research, library skills and politics.

"It's been a terrific process of discovery about the (gubernatorial) campaign," Norell said. "By reading through the documents, you can watch the campaign's strategy develop and adapt."

For Brad Cayer, who graduated in 2010 from the Owen Graduate School of Management, his role as a research assistant through Owen's Walker Library

opened up bigger doors for him—helping to research a book for then-Gov. Phil Bredesen.

Cayer was working as a research coach for undergraduate students in Owen's summer Accelerator program while working toward his MBA in health care there. "I helped the students learn to find information quickly and effectively, and also learn to look at it with a critical eye," he said.

His success as a research coach led to an opportunity to work as a researcher on Bredesen's book about health care. *Fresh Medicine: How to Fix Reform and Build a Sustainable Health Care System* was released in the fall of 2010 as a response to the landmark health care bill that Congress passed earlier that year.

"This project took what I was learning in my MBA program and combined it with research at a very high level," Cayer said. "The team would meet weekly to go over everyone's research, and then we'd go out and do more research. We were focusing on the implications of the new health care policy."

He credits his work as a research coach at Owen's Walker Library for giving him the ability and opportunity to work on the Bredesen assignment. "Anything I know about research I know because of the folks at the Walker Library," he says. "I was able to really focus on critical thinking—looking at sources, source bias, all those elements that give a source integrity. This project gave me real-world experience."

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PORTABLE TREASURES

Book as Art exhibit features one-of-a-kind works

Drawn from the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries' more than 3.5 million volumes, "The Book as Art" exhibit offers a dazzling display of nine centuries of bookmaking—from unidentified scribes' illuminated manuscripts to today's books by internationally recognized artists. These stunning volumes bear the marks of their makers in ways no mass-produced paperback can achieve.

Such exquisite volumes are valued perhaps more for their beautiful form than their literary function. "The Book as Art" offers a richness of visual form in a multitude of styles: ancient manuscripts on vellum illustrated with gold leaf and brilliant colors; bindings hand-tooled and encrusted with jewels; and covers inset with ivory miniatures, along with contemporary artists' books that leap beyond the traditional book form.

"Who says you can't judge a book by its cover? We did—and also by their printing, typography, images and more. We loved

every moment doing so," said Connie Vinita Dowell, dean of libraries. "I hope visitors get caught up in the magic of these pages. In this era of digital information and instant printing, this exhibit illuminates the soul as well as the mind."

Some of the newest volumes may be the most surprising, with their unconventional use of such materials as wood, metal, plastic and fabric and their sculptural assemblages. Some of the world's finest presses, like Barry Moser's Pennyroyal Press and Claire Van Vliet's Janus Press, are represented in the exhibit. These artists' remarkable talent and their attention to text, image, paper, typography and binding characterize their truly beautiful books.

The exhibit is located in Special Collections, the Library Gallery, the Peabody and Divinity libraries and the Martha Rivers Ingram Center for the Performing Arts.



(Top, this page)

This 1926 edition of The Oxford Book of English Verse is a beautiful example of an embroidered binding. It is bound in blue silk and richly designed in a floral pattern with silver wire stems and lettered on the spine and front cover in white silk thread.

(Bottom and backdrop)

Claire Van Vliet's The Gospel of Mary is a fragment of an early Christian gnostic gospel that focuses on Mary Magdalene as a beloved disciple of Christ. This 2006 work, with pulp painted covers and a pop-up centerpiece, has a woven binding and is laid in a clamshell box with a birch tray. Master printmaker Van Vliet, the founder of Janus Press, received a MacArthur Foundation genius grant in 1989 for her innovations in approaches to the book.





(Top) Vanderbilt's copy of Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Friendship: An Essay* was published by Sangorski & Sutcliffe in the early 1900s with rich illuminations on parchment and a binding embossed with red hearts and encrusted with rare stones. It is part of the Nettie Hale Rand Collection of Fine Binding and Printing, donated to Vanderbilt Library in 1941 by Mrs. Rand, an alumna of the university and wife of Frank C. Rand, president of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust.

(Bottom) In this 2007 work *Saca la cabeza y respira*, Catalina Jaramillo Quijano describes her loves and losses on a trip between Bogotá and Mexico City through her drawings. The title translates as Put your Head Away and Take a Breath.

UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN SPARKS GROWTH IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Vanderbilt's Special Collections opens a window to the past. The shelves are lined with the highlights, and the minutiae, of people's lives and livelihoods. Through the \$5 million in gifts received from more than 1,900 donors during the recently completed *Shape the Future* campaign, the library acquired a number of significant collections that enrich its academic depth.

Of special note are the papers of pioneering film and TV director Delbert Mann, BA'41, and the papers of respected Afro-Hispanic author Manuel Zapata Olivella. These and other collections have an impact on teaching, learning and research every day at Vanderbilt.

The papers of Zapata Olivella, who has been called the 20th century's most important Afro-Hispanic narrator, refocused the dissertation of graduate student John Maddox. "After we read *Changó, El Gran Putas* (Olivella's masterwork), in William Luis' Caribbean literature class, I discovered the library's collection and designed much of my project around it," he says. The Heard Library Society funded the acquisition of the papers.

Maddox's dissertation is a literary analysis that examines how contemporary writers use historical fiction to revise written accounts of Africans' roles in the history of the Americas. His work investigates how these writers used the lack of Latin American slave narratives to transform the ideas behind oral myths

into new epics and national histories that reflect the politics of the '60s and '70s.

With his work, Maddox hopes to call more attention to Zapata Olivella and other important Latin American authors whom he feels deserve much more study from scholars of literature, culture and history. He believes the collection will

"You can't study contemporary Latin American literature ... without reading Zapata Olivella, and you can't understand (him) without this collection."

become an unparalleled resource for researchers around the world.

"You can't study contemporary Latin American literature, especially Afro-Hispanic literature, without reading Zapata Olivella, and you can't understand Zapata Olivella's complete oeuvre without this collection," he says.

In Professor Richard Blackett's history workshop, undergraduate students begin to understand primary source research with the opening project—a 25-page biography of a person they research through Special Collections.

"I insist that they use Special Collections to research a specific aspect of someone's life," says Blackett, the Andrew Jackson Professor of American History. "I want them to get their fingers soiled, to really feel the research. This is an opportunity to get really seasoned in what historians do. Primary source research like this is the foundation of everything we do in this business."

His students have enjoyed using the Delbert Mann collection, which was a gift to Vanderbilt from Mann's sons. "The collection is

so expansive that students must carve out a specific idea to research," he says. "Looking at his Oscar, or his years in the war—there are lots of World War II papers. Doing this helps students learn how to narrow a project so that it's manageable."

Blackett believes that the growing Special Collections is a jewel for students and research. "There are lots of little revelations in research; it's the historian's job to string the pieces together," he says. "Special Collections is a wonderful resource, just full of uncovered treasures."



Graduate student John Maddox displays a scrapbook from the Zapata Olivella collection.

NEW COMMUNITY ROOM OPENS TO GREAT REVIEWS

Community (n): Society, the public, the people, village, neighborhood, kinship, convergence.

No matter how you define community, the new community room in the Central Library fits the bill. Open since January, it has already hosted thousands of people for lectures, receptions and meetings.

Highlights from its first months include a speech by former U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder and a panel discussion with three Vanderbilt alumni who have authored books focused on the civil rights movement. John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center, chairman emeritus of *The Tennessean* and host of Nashville Public Television's *A Word on Words*, moderated the panel.

"Traditionally, libraries have been magnets that draw people from all segments of the community for research and reading, of course, but for literary discourse and dialogue as well," said Seigenthaler, who served in the early 1960s as an administrative assistant to then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and acted as the chief negotiator with the governor of Alabama. "I envision that the community room at the library will be that sort of magnet and will attract people from all over the Nashville area who will reflect the remarkable diversity of our region."

A Board of Trust committee meeting met in the community room this fall. Last spring, the boards of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries and the Vanderbilt Alumni Association met in Vanderbilt's libraries for the first time.

"What a great space," said James Stofan, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations. "The acoustics of the community room are outstanding, the technology available is of the highest quality and the space itself allows for outside light. The ambience was perfect for our business meeting as well as for our reception at the end of the day."

"In the community that is Vanderbilt and Nashville, we need more places to come together to learn and exchange ideas," said Dean of Libraries Connie Vinita Dowell. "I want our students to hear the voices of poets and authors in their libraries and for our staff to host the nation's library leaders so we can become even better at what we do. We are so grateful to now be able to co-sponsor lectures and events with colleagues across campus."



Seigenthaler

RECENT GIFTS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Recent gifts to the Vanderbilt University Special Collections include the papers of television broadcasting pioneer Tippy Stringer Huntley Conrad and Thomas Wolfe items from alumnus Dr. Frank C. Wilson, BA'50. The photo at right shows Tippy Huntley with husband Chet Huntley preparing for the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Shown below are two of the many items recently donated as part of the Wilson Thomas Wolfe Book Collection. A 1947 edition of *Look Homeward, Angel* and an April 1958 *Theatre Arts Magazine* are among the hundreds of Wolfe items that Wilson gave to the library in 2010. The collection contains first editions and ephemeral materials about Wolfe and Southern literature, adding to the sizeable holdings in Special Collections.



Wilson Music Library marks 25 years

The Anne Potter Wilson Music Library at the Blair School of Music celebrated its 25th anniversary on the Vanderbilt campus with an afternoon reception this spring. Nearly 150 attendees enjoyed the event, which marked the rollout of the Blair Performance Archive (BPA).

“The Anne Potter Wilson Music Library has always been at the heart of the Blair School, both in a physical sense—it’s at the very center of our building—and, more importantly, in an intellectual and cultural sense,” Blair Dean Mark Wait said. “It has a superb collection of music in many formats and also reflects the global thrust of music today in its rich array of African and Latin American holdings. It’s a jewel, a joy to visit and work in.”

Holling Smith-Borne, director of the Music Library, explains that the BPA documents the performance history of Blair. “It’s a digital library that allows the study of performances at Blair,” he said.

The BPA is a searchable database and includes scans of original programs and



Leslie R. Boone, MA’76 (left), and Jim Harris, JD’67, the incoming Blair KeyBoard chairman, talk with Library Dean Connie Vinita Dowell at the Music Library’s anniversary party.

streaming audio files of the Blair and Peabody recording masters in the library’s archives. The Music Library also produces

the Global Music Archive, a streaming audio database with nearly 2,000 recordings available.



Library supporters celebrated the opening of the Central Library’s \$6 million renovation at a May reception. At left, former Board of Trust Chairman Martha Rivers Ingram talks with Brigette and Dick Porter, BA’54, MA’58, professor, emeritus, of Slavic languages and literatures. In the photo below, State Historian Walter T. Durham, BA’48, MA’56, Provost Richard McCarty and Emeritus Board of Trust member Ridley Wills II, BA’56, enjoy a chat.



Into the Zome

The fourth annual Zome Competition is in the books and Vanderbilt's winner is—the Eight-Stranded Beta-Barrel. Say what? The Zome competition, sponsored by the Science and Engineering Library in conjunction with National Engineers Week, attracted 14 teams of students competing to create and explain a design created from Zometools.

The competition winners were Ilham Eli, who is working toward a bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology, and Hana Nasr, who earned a bachelor's in neuroscience in May.

Tracy Primich, director of the Science and Engineering Library, brought the competition to Vanderbilt. She wanted the library to be a part of the week's activities at Vanderbilt's School of Engineering.

She explains Zometools as elaborate Tinkertoys. "You can build things in a variety of ways with many more angles," she added. The Zome system utilizes struts and connectors of various shapes to construct objects and is used to help teach algebra, scale, number sense, symmetry, proportion, geometry, DNA structure, trigonometry and more.

The teams used their combined engi-



Zome winners Ilham Eli and Hana Nasr work on their Eight-Stranded Beta-Barrel during the competition.

neering skills to create their design. The rules allowed "machines, molecules, organisms, devices or abstract concepts" as designs. Each team had four hours to build their design with a predetermined

number of Zome sticks and connectors and deliver a written explanation for their creation. Entries were judged on creativity, originality, usefulness, and non-obviousness of the design created.

Feed body and soul at library

Knowledge may be food for the soul, but a person still has to eat. Food for Thought, the new café at the Central Library, allows you to nurture both body and soul.

Located on the south end of the library's fourth floor, the café was added



Repurposed card catalog

during last year's extensive renovation of the 70-year-old building.

Last spring, the Vanderbilt community was invited to submit names for the café. A campuswide survey resulted in more than 1,200 responses. The top three choices went to Richard McCarty, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, for the final decision. "Food for Thought" rose to the top.

The library's wireless network extends out to the new terrace for outside dining. A key design element in the café is the repurposing of Vanderbilt's original card catalog as a objet d'art dividing the serving and eating areas.



Outdoor patio

JOHN ERICKSON

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Sen. Lamar Alexander, BA'62, in the Parkes Armistead Room of the Central Library. Cover image by John Russell

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Nashville had baseball fever in June 2011 as the Vanderbilt Commodores made their first appearance at the College World Series, going all the way to the semifinals. Pictured here is an 1892 game with Vanderbilt facing Cumberland University in the first game played on what is now called Currey Field. That's Kirkland Hall, still with its original two towers, in the background.