

A CORN Chronicle

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LIBRARY RENOVATION



JOHN RUSSELL

STEVE GREEN



The recent \$6 million renovation to Vanderbilt's Central Library includes a new gallery (above) linking the original 1941 building and the Flowers Wing. Students flock to the new sunlit, open study space on the eighth floor (bottom left), while the refurbished fourth-floor lobby (bottom right) welcomes visitors to the new Sixties at 50 exhibit. The projection of words (cover and top), which changes from a Vanderbilt V to an oak leaf to the star when walked through, represents real-time searches of the library's electronic catalogs.

JOHN RUSSELL



STEVE GREEN



The Sixties at 50

Opening exhibit shows off library renovations

The Sixties at 50 exhibit looks back at one of the most important decades in U.S. history through the rich collections of Vanderbilt's libraries. This turbulent decade was rocked by a new counterculture and jolted by assassinations, leaving Americans divided by ideas about generation, race, gender, sexuality, war and politics. Amid abundant optimism for what could be, debates and protests sometimes led to riots.

Dean Connie Vinita Dowell chose this topic for the first major exhibit in the newly renovated Central Library.

"This exhibit marks the beginning of a new exhibits program designed to bring to the Nashville community as well as those on campus



COLLECTION LANE MOTOR MUSEUM



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Tommy and Dick Smothers (left) starred in the "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," one of the most controversial TV shows of the Vietnam War era. The post-WWII demand for cheap transportation led to the creation of the tiny egg-shaped BMW Isetta (above), the first "bubble car."



*President John F. Kennedy spoke at Vanderbilt's 90th anniversary convocation on May 18, 1963, saying, "If the pursuit of learning is not defended by the educated citizen, it will not be defended at all." Below, new touch screens in the Central Library help tell the story of *The Sixties*, and Cary Grant on the set of *That Touch of Mink*, directed by the late Delbert Mann, a Vanderbilt alumnus and trustee emeritus.*



STEVE GREEN



DELBERT MANN PAPERS, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



The Rev. Ralph Abernathy (center), flanked by Andrew Young, Bernard Scott Lee and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaks at a press conference following the April 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Top right, Delbert Mann's casting notes from That Touch of Mink. Bottom right, a first edition of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'

The Sixties will be remembered as the decade that changed our nation—when we reached for the stars and struggled to find the meaning of equality.

a glimpse of the remarkable collections of Vanderbilt's libraries," Dowell said. "I am grateful to Celia Walker (director of special projects), Jody Combs (assistant dean for information technology), our bibliographers and our Special Collections staff whose expertise made the exhibit possible."

The exhibit brings a uniquely Vanderbilt perspective to the memorable era. "Our focus is on nationally significant stories that are drawn from our own collections," Walker says. "Drawing on the rich resources of the library's Special Collections, the exhibit examines the Vietnam War, civil rights, the space race, and the way communication changed through television and motion pictures. Utilizing interactive technology, the exhibits also take a look at what life was like at Vanderbilt during the Sixties and explore the challenges and triumphs that marked the decade."

With the perspective of a half-century, the Sixties will be remembered as the decade that changed our nation—when we reached for the stars and struggled to find the meaning of equality.

The exhibit will continue through August 13, 2011.



Apollo VII, the first manned Apollo mission, was crewed by Donn F. Eisele (left), Walter M. Schirra and Walter Cunningham. Their October 1968 flight featured the first live TV broadcast from a manned spacecraft.

What is a library?

Students in Vesna Pavlovic's photography class enjoyed a project that answered the question "what is a library?" in a number of forms. Starting with written statements of their ideas about libraries, students then explored the Peabody library to find answers in terms of architecture, knowledge, sound, silence and performance.

The resulting work, exhibited last spring in the Peabody Library, examined how students use and respond to library spaces, resources and each other. Pavlovic said while the students were developing their pieces they were also considering where



ASHLEY CARTER

they would be installed in the library.

"We were interested in analyzing the culture of the student group and ways of 'using' this material as well as the space," she said, adding that she may create a library project each year to build an archive of images. "If each time we can address a different library on campus, over the years, this can become an interesting creative documentation of our campus."

Student Ashley Carter played off Belgian surrealist René Magritte's painting *The Treachery of Images* (*Ceci n'est pas une pipe*) with a pair of photographs: "This is not a library" and "Neither is this (Still not a book)."

"This project changed my perception of a library," Carter said. "I originally came in with the assumption that the library was solely a place of learning. However, after this project, I started walking into the library aware of very different aspects—the social, the mystery, the comfort and its unique aesthetic."



ASHLEY CARTER

Student works illustrated the concept of "what is a library?" in a photography class project, using the Peabody Library as the setting.

Online journal publishes undergrad research

The *Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Journal* (VURJ), an online publication, offers students the opportunity to be published during their undergraduate career. VURJ is a joint venture among faculty, students and administrators and is the university's premier venue for multidisciplinary student research.

"VURJ gives undergraduate students an opportunity to showcase the results of their research," says Jody Combs, the library's assistant dean for information technology. The library provides hosting, initial training and technical support to the journal.

VURJ was among the first comprehensive digital journals in the nation devoted to undergraduate scholarship.

The annual journal welcomes submissions from any undergraduate student or collaborative team. More information can be found at www.vurj.vanderbilt.edu.



ROBYN HARRIS

Michael Aurbach's termites

A small swarm of cardboard termites staged a stealth assault on the "Tree of Learning" on the Library Lawn earlier this year. Students of Professor Michael Aurbach fashioned the swarm, dubbed "bronze-eating termites made by ACME Art and Termite," during their spring assemblage class. The three-hour attack, which left the tree unscathed, is the third in a series by Aurbach's assemblage class. In earlier years, the tree has faced down a tank and a 20-foot-long chain saw.

Student workers celebrated with special day

Staff-made desserts, gift bags and thank yous took the place of shelving books and helping with research for student library workers at the first Student Library Worker Appreciation day this spring.

The nearly 170 student library employees who work at the nine libraries on campus were thanked by Dean Connie Vinita Dowell and leaders from undergraduate and graduate student government. Each student worker received a certificate of appreciation and a small gift. A lobby photo display honored the students' efforts.

"It was a fun, festive event," library worker and Divinity student Eric Burton-Krieger said. "There was a lot of staff there, so the students felt appreciated and recognized."

Burton-Krieger, who has worked in the government information and media

services section for more than two years, says the library job meshes well with his studies. "I work a lot of evening and weekend hours, and they're flexible when a big project is due."

The idea for the appreciation event bubbled up through the many focus groups initiated by the dean over the last year. "The libraries would not run without our student workers," Dowell said. "They are key players on our team, and it's important to me that they be recognized."



ROBNN HARRIS



ROBNN HARRIS



ROBNN HARRIS

Dean Connie Vinita Dowell awards a prize (top right) during the library's first Student Library Worker Appreciation Day. Students were honored with bookplates (bottom left) and an afternoon celebration with library employees (from left in bottom right photo) Merry Balthrop, Larry Romans, Mary Charles Lasater, Graduate Student Council President Jonathan Wellons and Dean Dowell.

Can you hear me now? Exploring noise in libraries

What is a library? A place for quiet reflection or a place to exchange ideas—or everything in between? Mel Ziegler's art installation class pondered that question recently as part of a project called "Can You Hear Me Now?" exploring noise in libraries.

A recent library survey showed that noise was a topic that needed further exploration—students were unsure where they could make noise and where they needed to be quiet. Ziegler, chair of the art department was asked if art might attract attention to the issue as a

starting point for discussion. The exhibit was born.

The class toured five libraries on campus with librarians talking about the space when problems about noise arose before starting.

"This worked really well. The theme allowed the projects to hang together," Ziegler said. "It's a way to approach what can be a tense subject in a more playful way which also allows us to explore the issue."

Notable projects included an installation at Blair, where a student hung clap-

perless bells in the trees. "I thought this was right on in terms of the project—playing with the concepts of silence and sound," Ziegler said. "You were expecting the sound but not hearing it."

A Peabody library project featured pipes that ran from the basement to the top floor with megaphones placed along the pipes. "You could hear someone three stories away," Ziegler said. "It was a play on how the different layers of the library are connected." Other projects featured ears hanging in the reading rooms and ear plugs adorned with faces.

NASA VETERANS' PAPERS GIVE BOOST TO VANDERBILT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



The space race was built on the names of myth and legend—Saturn, Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. But the real-life discoveries made through the study of outer space have changed life on Earth.

Three NASA veterans have included Vanderbilt in their resumes and in their legacy by donating their papers to Vanderbilt.

Physicist Rick Chappell worked at NASA for almost a quarter century, including time as a payload specialist, and later served as the chief scientist for the Marshall Space Center. Taylor Wang was the nation's first Chinese-American astronaut and flew on Challenger's first operational Spacelab mission. Astronomer Charles O'Dell was the project scientist for the Hubble, securing support and funding for the space-based telescope.

"Donations like these allow us to get an inside look into important developments in our history," says Juanita Murray, director of Special Collections for the library. "You can use these papers to learn firsthand what one person's experience was. These are invaluable for primary research." The library is cataloging Chappell's papers, which encompass his work at Marshall, including outreach for NASA and GLOBE, a Clinton-era initiative on environmental issues.

Wang fulfills childhood prophecy

When Taylor Wang was 3, he fell from a ship into China's raging Jialing River. He grabbed onto a floating bamboo pole and by chance, a fisherman down river hauled him back to safety. There is an old Chinese saying if one survives such a disaster, good things will happen to him. And good things did happen—he married the love of his life and he was chosen as the first ethnic Chinese to go into space.

As a scientist, Wang, now Centennial Professor, Emeritus, at Vanderbilt, designed innovative drop dynamics experiments in zero gravity. His work drew NASA's attention and resulted in him being chosen as the nation's first Chinese-American astronaut in 1985. He and another payload specialist were responsible for conducting 12 key scientific experiments aboard the *Challenger* STS-51-B space shuttle flight, the first operational Spacelab mission.

Wang's personal experiment initially failed, and he pleaded with NASA administrators to give him extra time to fix it. When NASA refused, he said in total desperation, "If you guys don't give me a chance to repair my instrument, I'm not coming back." Supported by his fellow astronauts, Wang was eventually given extra time by Mission Control. Working around the clock, he repaired the equipment and the experiment was a success—it continues to contribute to his current research interests in fighting diabetes.

Wang became an American citizen after immigrating to the U.S. from China in the early 1960s and earned three degrees at UCLA. He was directing a lab at the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., when he was picked for the seventh *Challenger* space shuttle flight that

lifted off in April 1985. Upon his return to Earth, Wang received many awards and recognitions, including the NASA Space Flight medal, and was recognized on Oct. 11, 1985, with “Taylor G. Wang Recognition Day” in Washington, D.C. He also addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

In 1988 Wang joined Vanderbilt as the Centennial Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and director of the Center for Microgravity Research and Applications. In 1992 and 1995, scientists aboard shuttle flights successfully carried out his experiments on compound drop dynamics in zero gravity and encapsulations for living cells, respectively.

Wang chose to donate his papers to Vanderbilt because of his dedication to students. “I demanded the best from my students, and they responded,” he said. “What better place to leave my lifelong work?”

Wang’s novel encapsulation system of living cells has practical applications in the fight against hormone-deficient diseases such as Type 1 diabetes, Parkinson’s disease and others. The encapsulated pancreatic islets can deliver insulin through nanopores without the need to use powerful immune-suppressing drugs. The treatment has proved successful in trials transplanting the cells into diabetic mice and dogs. Working with doctors and researchers at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Wang says current results with primates are equally promising, and he is hopeful that human trials will be allowed by the FDA within the next two years.

Wang hopes that researchers use his papers to help them follow their natural curiosity. “I changed my research many times,” he said. “If you follow your interest, not your training, you will have an exciting career.”

Fascination with the ‘what might be’ charted course for his career

Rick Chappell, research professor of physics and consultant for space science in Public Affairs, came to Vanderbilt’s campus as a freshman in 1961 determined to carve out a career in space exploration. After earning a bachelor’s degree in physics followed by a Ph.D. in space science at Rice University, he took a job in 1968 with Lockheed Missile and Space Co., studying the magnetic fields and plasma particles (electrified gases) found in space far beyond the Earth.

Rick Chappell (bottom center, holding on to floor) trained with fellow astronauts aboard the famous “Vomit Comet,” a parabola-flying aircraft which simulates the weightless environment of space. Many of the participants who fly on the aircraft develop motion sickness, leading to the airplane’s nickname.



Taylor Wang celebrates after his space shuttle mission.

“Conventional wisdom said that these particles originate in the sun and are carried to Earth by the solar wind,” Chappell says. “Our satellite-based research has shown in contrast that most of the particles come from Earth’s upper atmosphere and flow out into Earth’s high-altitude magnetic field, called the magnetosphere. It’s important to understand the correct origin of these particles, which cause the aurora and which can disrupt radio communications and satellite operations.”

After six years with Lockheed, Chappell spent the next 24 years with NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., where he eventually became the center’s chief scientist. Dur-

ing that time, he trained to be a payload specialist, a scientist/astronaut who conducts scientific experiments on the space shuttle. Because of the 1986 *Challenger* accident, Chappell’s shuttle training lasted seven years and he served in the payload operations center during the 1992 mission.

In 1996, at the request of then-Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt, Chappell returned to Vanderbilt as a Freedom Forum First Amendment Scholar. Chappell and Jim Hartz, former host of *The Today Show*, collaborated on a Freedom Forum study about communicating science through the media to the public. The resulting study, called “Worlds Apart,” led to the creation of an interdisciplinary major at Vanderbilt, called the Communication of Science and Technology. Graduates in this major have taken up careers in such fields as public health, science writing, pharmaceutical sales, law and medicine.

From 2002 to 2009 Chappell also served as executive director of



Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory. During this time, he led Dyer's renovation both inside and out and helped transform it into a community outreach facility with space camps for students and science programs for schoolteachers. Chappell helped create the popular Bluebird on the Mountain singer-songwriter series as well. Thanks to all of these initiatives, the number of annual visitors to Dyer increased from 500 to 11,000 during his tenure, and the observatory received government science outreach grants totaling more than \$300,000.

Chappell has followed his personal goal of "living in the what might be" from his student days at Vanderbilt to his return to the campus 14 years ago. His donated papers follow that path, covering his Marshall Flight Center years, including space shuttle development, his NASA outreach work and later environmental projects. Chappell is also donating the papers of his father, longtime Huntingdon College history professor Gordon Chappell, who earned his master's and doctoral degrees at Vanderbilt, which are mainly focused on Alabama and Tennessee history.

Grade-school assignment leads to future among the stars

Bob O'Dell, Distinguished Research Professor of Astrophysics, recalls a sixth-grade assignment to write an essay on what he hoped to be doing in 25 years. "I said I wanted to be an astronomer observing with a 200-inch telescope," says O'Dell, who was already building his own small telescopes by the time he was in the eighth grade. "At the time the Palomar Mountain

Observatory had the biggest telescope in the world. I'm sure I learned about it in *My Weekly Reader*."

Little could he have imagined that he would one day be the chief scientist for a telescope located in outer space—the Hubble Space Telescope.

In 1971 NASA began studying the feasibility of the space-based telescope and asked O'Dell, then a full professor of astronomy at the University of Chicago, to join its advisory group of elite astronomers and engineers. The following year O'Dell left Chicago to become NASA's chief scientist for the project. His first task was to persuade Congress to fund the telescope and major research institutions such as Harvard, Chicago and the California Institute of Technology to participate in the project rather than concentrating on ground-based telescopes. The funding process took six years.

"It was clear that Hubble was going to be the most powerful telescope of my generation, if not my lifetime, and that has proven to be the case," O'Dell says. "That's why I was willing to gamble on leaving Chicago to work for NASA."

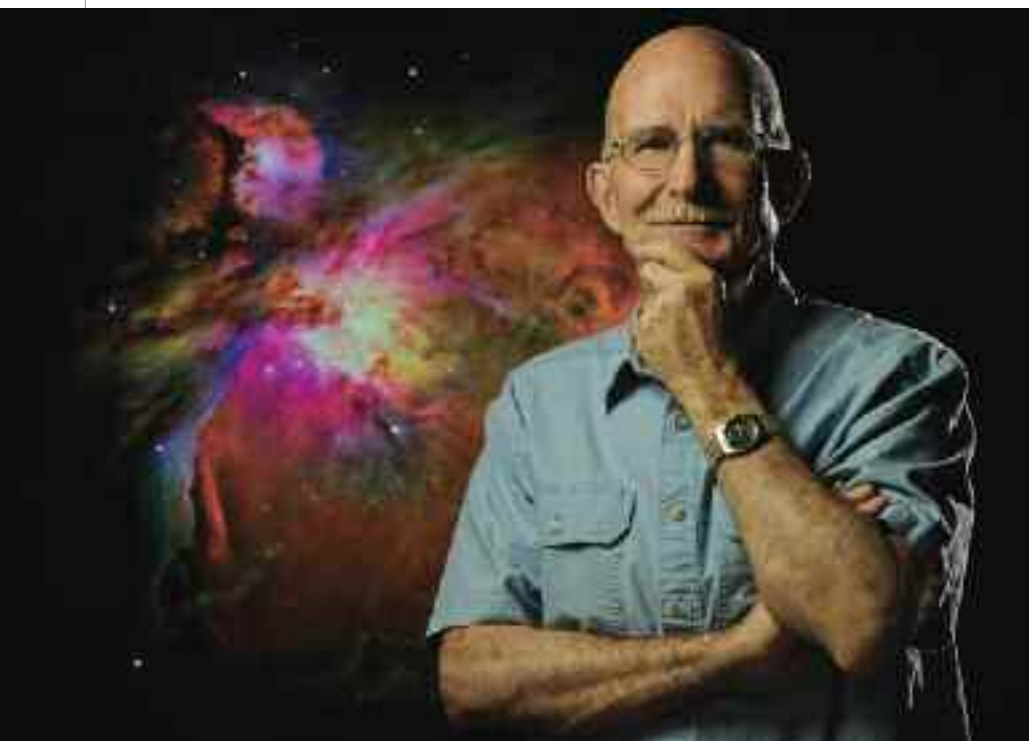
Construction on Hubble began in 1978 and was completed eight years later, but several delays, including the postponement of space shuttle flights after the 1986 *Challenger* explosion, prevented its launch until 1990. Once in orbit, Hubble transformed the way scientists look at the universe. The numerous discoveries made through its lens have resulted in almost a thousand new papers published each year using Hubble data.

O'Dell's work on Hubble is the focus of his donated papers.

"I expect that my papers will be of greatest interest to those interested in the enormous change in the practice of astronomy that began with the start of the 'space age,'" he said. "This should be particularly true for those interested in the creation of the Hubble Space Telescope."

After construction of the telescope neared completion in the early '80s, O'Dell returned to academia at Rice University. In 2000 he came to Vanderbilt, where his focus has been studying the Orion Nebula and planetary nebulae via Hubble. The Orion Nebula is the closest center of massive star formation—a stellar nursery that reproduces the conditions in which our own sun formed some 4.5 billion years ago. O'Dell is the author of the 2003 book *The Orion Nebula, Where Stars Are Born*.

"I've been working on Orion for not quite half a century," O'Dell says with a wry grin. "You'd think I'd have it figured out by now, wouldn't you?"



Bob O'Dell with an image of the Orion Nebula.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library thanks and recognizes the many supporters who gave generously to the library during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010). Please contact Katie Robinson at (615) 343-3113 or katie.robinson@vanderbilt.edu to learn more about supporting the library, to let us know about any omissions or errors on this donor list, or to request removal of your name from this and all future online donor rolls.

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One-on-one experience set course for her career

When Betty Teoman, BA'68, was a young Vanderbilt student, a librarian changed her life. "A librarian was watching as I fumbled my way through the reference room," Teoman says. "She offered to help and showed me additional resources that really changed the way I approached my studies. That one-on-one experience is ultimately why I became a librarian."

After earning her degree in English at Vanderbilt, Teoman earned a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and then started her 30-year career as a librarian with the Los Angeles Public Library. When she and her husband, Kory, retired, they started thinking seriously about estate planning. Their will includes a bequest benefiting Vanderbilt's libraries.

"Vanderbilt played a formative role in my life," Teoman says. "That's why we decided it would be one of the lynchpins of our charitable donations when we were working on our wills."

During her career as a librarian, Teoman has been involved with the revitalization of two libraries and knows just how hard it is to keep them up to date. The Teomans have been impressed with the work of Dean Connie Vinita Dowell and her plans for Vanderbilt's libraries.

"We want our gift to help widen the reach and the scope of the library," Teoman says. "We want this library to reach out to students and faculty, to be an accessible, comfortable, welcoming place. Most of all, we want to inspire others to support the library as well."



Betty and Kory Teoman



Jo Ann Rayfield

Honoring libraries as sacred space

To many people, libraries are just buildings filled with books. To Jo Ann Rayfield, MA'64, PhD'69, they are anything but that.

"For me, libraries are perilously close to sacred space," Rayfield says. "I remember walking into the library at Vanderbilt as a graduate student. I was holding my breath—it just seemed so huge to me."

Rayfield's studies at Vanderbilt were greatly influenced by Professor León Helguera. He directed her dissertation on the diplomatic career of Daniel F. O'Leary and also instilled in her a love of Colombia that has never waned. The J. León Helguera Collection of Colombiana is housed at Vanderbilt's Central Library and is considered one of the finest collections of its kind.

"Great libraries have collections that include items people don't use every week or even every year," she says. "Great libraries have a continuity and an ongoing commitment to things that are not fashionable."

Rayfield recently retired from Illinois State University where she taught history for more than 30 years before serving as the university's archivist. Illinois State recently honored her by naming the archives for her.

Rayfield is a proud supporter of Vanderbilt's libraries and has been a consistent and generous supporter of the Helguera Collection.

"When you give to a library, the gift lasts forever," she says. "You give them money and they buy a book. That book endures and 50 years from now it will speak to someone from another generation."

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Wild Bunch funds new lecture series

At the very start of the academic year in 1973, former Chancellor Alexander Heard issued an open invitation to the freshman class—come for lunch. A group of seven first-year students, nearly all of whom had just met, took him up on the offer. During the rollicking event, the chancellor named the group the “Wild Bunch.” The name stuck, and the friendships with each other and Chancellor Heard held over the years, long past graduation.

Following Chancellor Heard's passing last year, the Wild Bunch got together in New Orleans to talk about how they could honor him. They decided on the Wild Bunch Lecture Fund, and members ponied up enough that night to fund half the endowment needed to get the ball rolling. Additional gifts and pledges from the Vanderbilt community are welcome.

The Wild Bunch envisions bringing in a thought-provoking, unconventional speaker to campus each year to ignite Vanderbilt students' thoughts and imaginations. The plan calls for both a large lecture and informal meetings with smaller groups of students.

The group has found a willing backer in Dean of Libraries Connie Vinita Dowell, who plans to host the inaugural event in the new community room of the recently renovated Central Library.

“We've been working very closely with Dean Dowell and her staff about this,” says David Blum, BA'77, now a real estate broker and developer in Wilmette, Ill. “Whenever you do a project, you need a champion. She's our on-campus champion.”

The lecture fund is the second Wild Bunch effort that honors Heard and supports the library. They established the Wild Bunch Acquisitions fund in 1997 to honor Heard and have purchased 161 books for the library.

“He was a very near and dear friend of ours,” Blum says. “He would seek us out and sit with us at Reunion lunches. He was a wonderful leader for the university.”



The Wild Bunch in New Orleans. Front row (left) Hal Huffman, Julie Huffman, David Blum, Phil Walker and Bob Courtney. Back row (left) Mike Bagot, Margaret Callihan and Matt Callihan.

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF JEAN HEARD: FIRST FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

We note with sadness the January 2 passing of Jean Keller Heard, widow of former Vanderbilt University Chancellor Alexander Heard and a great friend of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library system. She was 86. The Heard family moved to Nashville in 1963 when Alexander Heard was named chancellor. As “first lady” of Vanderbilt, Mrs. Heard was the hostess for many functions and an avid supporter of the Central Library. In 1974, Mrs. Heard founded the Friends of the Library, based on her experience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where her husband had served as dean of its graduate school prior to becoming Vanderbilt’s fifth chancellor.

“Recognizing that every great university requires a great library, she quietly yet forcefully created support from friends, alumni and faculty,” said Ann Cook Calhoun, a former Friends president and also a professor of English, emerita. When Chancellor Heard received emeritus status, then-Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt and the Board of Trust in 1984 named the library system The Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

“It was most fitting that Jean Heard’s name was included in the renaming of the library in 1984, for that action reflected the

creative and vital personality of the one who was the main impetus for the establishment of the Friends of the Library,” former University Librarian Frank Grisham said. “She envisioned this effort as not only an opportunity to raise crucial funds for collections development, but a chance to increase the visibility and stature of the library in its community.” In 1998 the Friends honored Jean Heard with an endowed library fund in her name.

Mrs. Heard was a native of Andalusia, Ala., and graduated from the University of Alabama and the Juilliard School of Music. She married Alexander Heard in 1949. She was an accomplished violinist, civic leader, and education and social welfare reformer whose achievements extended far beyond the realm of the library. But we remember her best for her ongoing support of the library. “Books were an important part of Jean Heard’s life,” noted longtime university administrator the late John Poindexter. “She saw them not as collectors’ items but as tools for learning—for understanding the world around us and the world within. The Heard Library system had no greater champion or more powerful voice.”

A memorial service was held on January 8 in Benton Chapel.

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ACORN Chronicle

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On the first Saturday in May 2010, the rain began to fall. It kept on falling through Sunday, and when it finally stopped, Nashville was hit by a thousand-year flood. The Cumberland River rose to 51.86 feet, a level not seen since 1937.

This photo shows two WSM reporters working from a boat to cover the flood of 1937. That year, after a month of steady rain, sleet and snow, the Cumberland, Tennessee and Mississippi rivers overflowed their banks in Tennessee and 11 other states. The water took weeks to subside, and as a result of the disaster, Kentucky Dam and Lake were built as flood control measures.