

# ACORN Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY THE JEAN AND ALEXANDER HEARD LIBRARY • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY • FALL 2008



## The Three Tenures

From Dewey Decimal to digital



Flo Wilson  
Interim University  
Librarian

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Representing a combined 36 years of leadership in the Heard Library are (from left) Frank Grisham (director, 1968-1982), Paul Gherman (university librarian 1996-2008), and Malcolm Getz (director, 1984-1994). They all got together at a retirement party the Heard Library gave for Gherman in June.

THE ACORN CHRONICLE is published semi-annually by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, 615/322-4782, or by email to editor [Lew.Harris@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Lew.Harris@vanderbilt.edu).

THE ACORN CHRONICLE, Fall 2008  
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Dean of the Heard Libraries: Connie Vinita Dowell  
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Special thanks to Vanderbilt Bookstore for lending books to be photographed.

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/> or <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/pub.html>

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

### Eskind Biomedical Library helps researchers comply with new NIH mandate

To promote greater free access to research arising from public funds, in January 2008 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new mandate for NIH-funded researchers. Effective April 7, 2008, all peer-reviewed research articles accepted for publication and arising in whole or part from NIH funded research must be deposited within 12 months of publication in the freely accessible PubMed Central repository. Begun in 2000, PubMed Central is the NIH's public digital library of fulltext articles from the biomedical and life sciences literature. To assist the VUMC research community in understanding its responsibilities under the policy, the Eskind Biomedical Library created the Journal Publisher Compliance database. For a full article about ensuring NIH compliance, go to [snipurl.com/nihmandate](http://snipurl.com/nihmandate).

### Peabody Library undergoes renovation

The ground floor of the Peabody Library was renovated last summer to make way for new staff offices and a large study hall. The area, previously occupied by Vanderbilt Environmental Health and Safety, has been refurbished to accom-



Students study in the spacious Ground Floor Project Room of the Peabody Library. The area was renovated last summer to make room for a research consultation room, a conference room, the project room, and staff offices.

modate patrons from Peabody and The Commons. The renovated area now holds five staff offices, a staff mail room, and a large study space contain-

### New Heard Library Dean "comes home"

Connie Vinita Dowell, a Vanderbilt University graduate with three decades of experience working in academic libraries, including two senior leadership positions, has been named dean of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library at Vanderbilt.



Dean Connie Dowell

"We're more than pleased that Connie will be joining us," said Associate Provost Dennis Hall, who oversaw the search process. "The entire campus community—faculty, librarians, staff, students, administrators, everyone—looks forward to welcoming her back to Vanderbilt and to working with her to chart the future of the Jean and Alexander Heard library system."

For the past nine years, Dowell has served as dean of the library and information access at San Diego State University, a public institution with 35,000 students.

ing chairs, tables and white board room dividers all of which are on wheels. Students can move the furniture around for individual or group study purposes. The floor also houses two bathrooms, a staff break room, a research consultation room, and a conference room. Three areas previously serving as staff offices have been converted to group study rooms.

### Librarians participate in ARL study

Twelve Vanderbilt librarians participated in the field study phase of a New Model Publications Study, sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and conducted between April 1 and June 15. Librarians interviewed faculty to learn about new types of electronic publications currently used by scholars and researchers, and then recorded the results of their data collection directly into an online database, as did librarians from 13 other academic libraries participating in the study. A final New Model Publications Study report and a Web-accessible database of study results will both be released this fall by ARL. For further information see: <http://snipurl.com/arlstudy>.

# Heard Library is going with the Flo

BY WHITNEY WEEKS

In her 24 years with the campus libraries at Vanderbilt University, Flo Wilson has worked in a number of different positions. None, though, are quite as visible as her current one—interim university librarian. Newly appointed Dean of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library at Vanderbilt Connie Vinita Dowell isn't expected to arrive on campus until March of 2009. Until that time, Wilson will oversee the day-to-day operations of Vanderbilt's libraries as well as manage several mission-critical projects.

A well known and experienced face at Vanderbilt, Wilson came to the university in 1984 as assistant director of the Library for Systems. Today, in addition to her interim responsibilities, she serves as head of public services, deputy university librarian, and director of the Walker Management Library. She also co-chaired with Professor of History Marshall Eakin the search committee that recently recommended Dowell. Wilson's familiarity with Vanderbilt and her fondness for and ability to run simultaneous, complex projects are expected to serve her well during this interim period.

"We hope to try to not only keep the interim period as short as possible, but also to maintain our momentum so that it doesn't feel as if life is coming to a standstill until Dean Dowell comes," says Wilson. "The interim responsibility is always a limited one—you have to deal with the day-to-day things, participating within the university to make sure you're meeting university needs, but you aren't expected to start new directions."

After graduating with an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University, she worked as a financial analyst for a bank. Realizing that wasn't what she wanted to do with her life, she returned to school and earned her master's in librarianship. In addition to perhaps a slightly more analytical background than others in her field, Wilson brings to her work a love of books and a keen determination to make the libraries of Vanderbilt function as well as possible for the members of the university community.

"I like taking an idea, figuring out how we can—or whether or not we even can—implement it within the library, and then moving forward with a plan to do something different or better," says Wilson. "Seeing these types of projects come to fruition, helping the library accomplish something that really is to the benefit of the university, that's what I enjoy."

A number of projects await Wilson's attention and enthusiasm during her interim assignment, including the possible acquisition of a couple of new collections, the preparation of a second annex facility for archives use, and working closely with Dowell to prepare for her arrival.

"Vanderbilt is fortunate to have someone as talented and



Interim University Librarian Flo Wilson is shown in the Reference Room at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

experienced as Flo Wilson to oversee the Heard Library," says Associate Provost Dennis Hall, who oversaw the selection process of Dowell. "Flo is known and widely respected throughout the campus for her savvy approach to the Library's multifaceted mission. She is the ideal person to oversee the Library during the transition. Vanderbilt's library, and its users, are in excellent hands."

# Bandy Center books chronicle Paris flood



BY JEFFREY H. JACKSON, BA'93  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY,  
RHODES COLLEGE

The floods that ravaged the Midwestern United States last summer left behind widespread destruction and billions of dollars worth of damage. People living in Paris experienced a similar, unexpected misery almost a century ago.

Water gushing into basements caught everyone in Paris by surprise during the third week of January 1910 as the Seine swelled to a level not seen since the 1650s. Soon the river was overflowing through huge portions of the City of Light. The force of underground water shattered the foundations of buildings and scattered paving stones through the winding streets. Thousands of Parisians forced out of their homes by the river's rapid rise found themselves in emergency Red Cross shelters and soup kitchens. Electricity, a relatively new amenity in this modernizing city, quickly fizzled and thrust people into the dark for days. In streets where water stood several feet deep, moving around Paris became a challenge often requiring a boat. When the stations and tunnels for the 10-year-old subway filled, the system shut down completely. For weeks after the Seine receded, Paris sat in ruins.

Despite the drama, this is a largely forgotten episode in the history of Paris. I've examined all of the material on the flood held in French archives while researching a new book, *Paris Under Water: How Paris Survived the Great Flood of 1910*. To my delight, I also discovered through an Internet search that Vanderbilt's W.T. Bandy Center—a remarkable resource for scholars of French culture which I have used for previous research—houses one of the largest collections of rare material about the 1910 flood anywhere in the United States. I contacted the Bandy Center's staff in the fall of 2007 while still researching in Paris. When I finally came to campus in summer 2008, they generously provided me with everything I needed.

Much of the information about the flood found in the documents held at the Bandy Center was preserved in pictures.

When dozens of photographers went into Parisian streets documenting the tragedy, they captured hundreds of dramatic images. Many appeared in commemorative booklets sold for one franc even while the waters were still high. These printed compilations of a few dozen photographs per booklet served as a tangible memento of the flood for those who lived through it. Seeing the



Houses and buildings mostly underwater are shown in the foreground, with the famed Eiffel Tower in the background during the flood on 1910.

pictures somehow made this unbelievable event seem real.

The Bandy Center holds five of these remarkable booklets from a larger series titled *Paris et ses environs: inondations de janvier 1910 (Paris and Its Surroundings: the Floods of January 1910)* published by A. Taride, a company which also printed postcards and city maps for tourists. Capturing the anxiety of the moment, the images show how Parisians struggled to cope with the high water in a city that appeared to be crumbling around them. A viewer sees streets torn up, buildings encircled by water, and people's precious belongings bought with years of hard work now scattered and caked in mud. We also witness people improvising ways to move around, sometimes on rafts but often on wooden walkways quickly erected throughout the city.

The Bandy Center also holds a booklet from the studio of the well-known French photographer Pierre Petit titled *Paris inondé (Flooded Paris)*. Unlike the more journalistic images from Taride, Petit's pictures transform the flooded cityscape into a work of art. They draw our eye down long rows of trees or lampposts, and they use reflection and mist to create a beautiful effect. Petit aestheticizes the broken city, ironically making the flood look attractive despite the human tragedy. In photographs devoid of people and focusing on ruins, he presents Paris as an empty ghost town, not the modern urban capital that it was in 1910.

Finally, the collection houses a very rare folio-sized book called *Paris inondé: la crue de janvier 1910 (Flooded Paris: The High Water of January 1910)* published by a leading Parisian newspaper. It tells the story of the flood in words, but the pictures it provides are some of the most powerful of any I've seen throughout all my research. They show the entire range of Paris' experience during the flood, from the pain of devastation to the intense drama of rescue to the hard work of rebuilding.



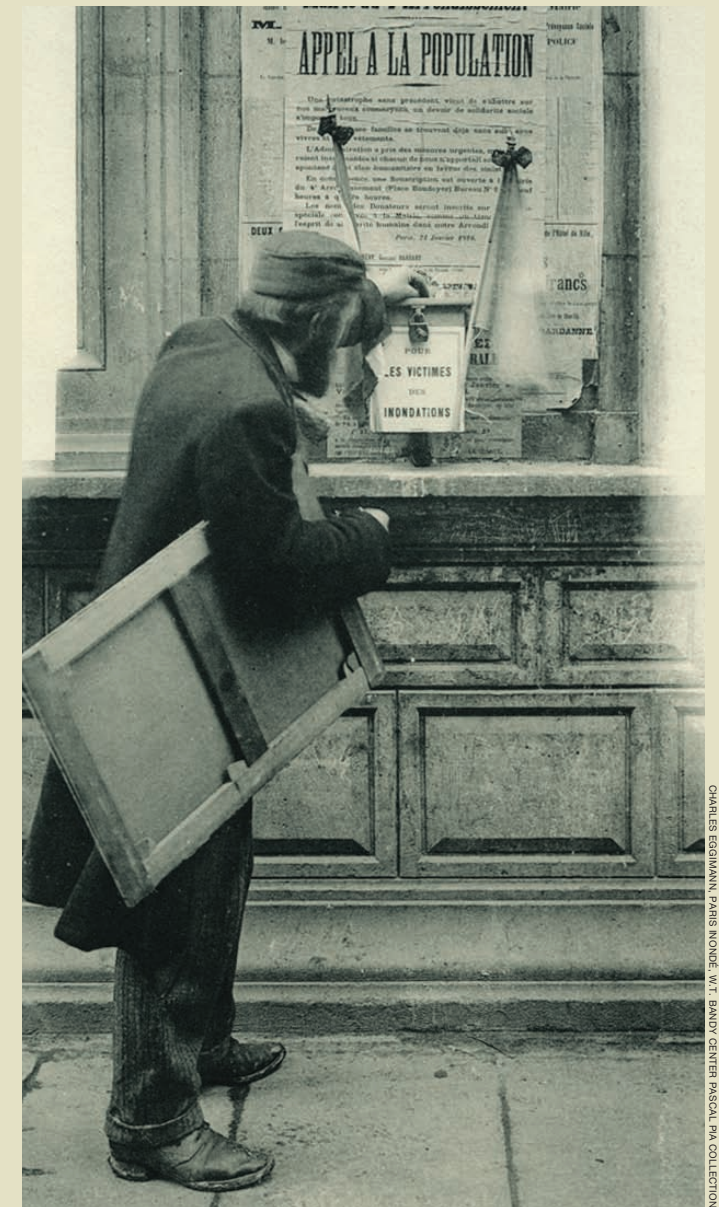
Boats tethered along the Avenue Montaigne in Paris during the flood.

One photograph says much about the city during those days: an elderly man putting a few coins into a collection box labeled "For the Flood Victims."

Of course, the whole story of the 1910 flood is more complicated, involving looting and hoarding as well as scenes of rescue and neighbors lending a helping hand. But the pictures have survived as evidence of Parisians at their best and how they came together to save their city in a moment of crisis.



A raft carries some Parisian ladies to safety during the flood of 1910.



A Paris gentleman drops money in a charity box for victims of the flood.

# Dean Bradford admires “The Last Lion”

BY RAY WADDLE

*Which books matter most in your life? That's the question we asked two Vanderbilt leaders, Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos and Dean of the Owen Graduate School of Management James W. Bradford. We think you will enjoy the answers of these two lifelong readers. Even in the era of iPods, blogs, podcasts and satellite radio, a book you can hold in your hand still has the power to influence lives. Yes, books still matter.*

As a CEO in the difficult climate of recession and competition in the 1990s, Jim Bradford's thoughts often turned to a take-charge leader who knew something about resolve and strategy in the face of world-hammering adversity.

Bradford's literary hero was not exactly a leading expert in asset management or cost accounting, but he did offer the world uncommon eloquence, defiance and leadership. He embodied, no less, the courage of western civilization to defeat the Hitler war machine of World War II.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965) is alive and well in the pages of William Manchester's beloved, high-spirited biography, *The Last Lion*. The two-volume work, and its subject, remains a touchstone for Bradford, dean of Owen Graduate School of Management.

“Churchill was someone who could hold his own despite the headwinds,” says Bradford, who was named Owen School dean in 2005.

“Throughout his career, he found a way to survive, prosper and lead. I came to understand that he could be a leader who knew his own doubts but overcame adversity.”

Many Churchill biographies exist, but Bradford was drawn to Manchester, who used strong narrative gifts to create portraits of power and leadership. (His other book subjects include John Kennedy and Douglas McArthur.) In two volumes (the first was published in 1983; the second, 1988) Manchester follows Churchill through a crowded career as soldier, journalist, orator, biographer, memoirist, statesman, world citizen, cigar-smoking wit, and finally wartime Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



James W. Bradford Jr., dean of the Owen Graduate School of Management, is shown with his two-volume set about Sir Winston Churchill, *The Last Lion*. The book was written by William Manchester.

Tragically, Manchester was unable to finish his monumental project. A stroke prevented him from completing a much-awaited third volume, which would have covered the last 24 dramatic years of Churchill's life. Manchester died in 2004, age 82.

Nevertheless, Bradford was impressed with what Manchester did accomplish.

“What I take away is the way Manchester presents a man who had the courage of his own convictions, a leader who inspired other people in a difficult time when popular sentiment was going the other way,” says Bradford, who came to Owen after serving as president and CEO of United Glass Corporation and AFG Industries. He has also practiced law, having earned a Vanderbilt law degree in 1973.

Bradford collects speeches—including political addresses and sermons—and that's how he got familiar with Churchill's words decades ago. He liked Sir Winston's quick and sometimes caustic wit.

Add to that Bradford's attraction to the sweeping backdrop of 20th century history. His own father was a World War II pilot, and he has made European visits in order to walk historic battlefields, such as the Normandy coast, scene of the D-Day invasion.

Churchill's life, set against the epic dramas of war and empire and civilization, keeps Bradford in touch with the largest themes of humanity. Not a bad perspective for students to have either, he suggests.

“I'd like our students to graduate with a sense that the best business leaders are those who understand large pieces of human history, the important questions

of life, not just how the economy behaved last week,” he says.

Bradford's reading interests span other disciplines besides world-altering statesmanship. He has, for instance, a poetry collection. Contemporary favorites include Wendell Berry, Philip Levine, and Vanderbilt's own Mark Jarman, a professor of English.

But among the many personalities on Bradford's bookshelf, a pugnacious wartime figure on the global stage, as rendered by a celebrated biographer, still beckons.

# Chancellor has a long list of favorites

BY RAY WADDLE

Asking Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos to name his favorite book is like signing up for a walking tour through a whole library of titles that excite him. He can list lots of books that matter to him. Settling on just one, he says, is no easy thing.

He is typically reading 20 books at a time. His interests embrace a large slice of human endeavor—history, law, science, politics, religion, strategy, biography, lately poetry, and, not least, risk and predictability, the art and science of understanding human behavior and how its unpredictable turns shape the future.

Adding to the difficulty of narrowing down his list, Zeppos is an energetic book collector, mostly in the areas of the history of education and in golf (reflecting an interest in golf architecture, instruction, and history). He's running out of shelves—stacks of books eat up floor space at home—but he sees no end in sight to the books he wants to buy and to read.

“I think we should keep a list not of the great books we've read but the books we haven't read,” he says.

Thus the list of books that have shaped him is long. His compulsion is strong to acknowledge several. With his background in law, he especially credits two books over the decades for the insight they gave him into the law as an instrument of social change — *Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Equality* by Richard Kluger; and *Gideon's Trumpet* by Anthony Lewis, the saga of a Florida man's battle to win the right to legal counsel. Both analyze monumental court cases and their impact on American society.

“A professor once told me: ‘the law is not brought by storks,’” Zeppos says. “People create laws. Law is a social force.”

He has good things to say about recent reads—including Nassim Nicholas Taleb's *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*, a look at humanity's flawed powers of prediction; *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* by David

Hackett Fischer, a character study of America based on British immigration patterns; and *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, an examination of Lincoln's leadership style and his stormy relations with his cabinet.

“I read to expand my knowledge; it's a pleasure to learn,” says Zeppos, who calls himself a stubborn reader who, once committed to a book, finishes it no matter how long or hard-going.

Pressed for one title that emerges at the top of the stack, he finally relents: *The Federalist Papers*.

This series of 85 essays, penned by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, was first published as a bound group in 1788 (and titled *The Federalist*). The book remains the preeminent commentary on the Constitution.

“I think we should keep a list not of the great books we've read but the books we haven't read”

The chancellor will be assigning it (along with the Constitution itself) when he teaches a class of undergraduates in spring 2009.

“I keep coming back to it. Historically it was so important in the adoption of the Constitution. Philosophically, politically, practically ... it is a guide to understanding the drafting of the document,” he says.

Zeppos's stack of important books—the ones he just finished reading, the others he has his sights on—is ever expanding, so his roster of books that matter might be forever in flux. But he'll always be reading.

“One good thing about being a professor—or a chancellor—is the book budget.”



Vanderbilt Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos and his favorite book, *The Federalist Papers*.



# DiscoverArchive collects, stores, preserves and disseminates VU's digital scholarship

BY RONEE FRANCIS AND ROBERTA WINJUM

DiscoverArchive, the place to store digital scholarship at Vanderbilt, collects, disseminates and preserves the scholarly output of Vanderbilt faculty, graduate students, honors undergraduates and staff.

Introduced in the fall of 2005, this initiative came about through a need to increase access to scholarship, provide a systematic way to preserve digital files, and participate in a global networked environment. Formerly known as VU e-Archive, DiscoverArchive was re-named last July to complement the newly launched library search tool, DiscoverLibrary.

DiscoverArchive, and digital repositories in general, represent a movement toward providing open access to research and campus-based publishing. Content runs the gamut from theses to research to podcasts. Faculty, students, and staff create collections and submit digital content through an easy-to-use interface. During the submission process, basic descriptions about each item, called metadata, are applied to each record to facilitate the searchability of the digital content.

Carolyn Dever, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, emphasizes that DiscoverArchive distributes research of Vanderbilt faculty and students alike. "Original research occurs every day throughout our campus," she said. "Through DiscoverArchive, Vanderbilt's superb faculty and students have found a new way to join the worldwide scholarly conversation."

As Dever points out, faculty using DiscoverArchive have been pleased with the results. Leah Marcus, the Edwin Mims Professor of English and director of Jewish Studies, recently deposited two books she wrote—*Puzzling Shakespeare* and *Childhood and Cultural Despair*. The volumes cover topics relating to 16th and 17th century literature.

"DiscoverArchive is a marvelous place for faculty to post publications that are either out of print or buried in hard-to-find journals," Marcus said. "It is particularly useful for people like me, who started publishing decades before the digital revolution and who now can give new life to their oldest books."

Once deposited, content is immediately discoverable by Google within 24 to 48 hours of posting, thus becoming a way for authors to tap into unseen audiences. Studies show that making research openly accessible increases citation rates from 50 percent to 500 percent. Andres Zamora, associate professor of Spanish, was pleasantly surprised to learn that his essay, *Ensayo Hipertextual*, is one of the most highly accessed items in DiscoverArchive

since its deposit 11 months ago.

Mark Schoenfield, associate professor of English, uses DiscoverArchive as a way to publish digitized primary source materials used to research his forthcoming book, *British Periodicals and Romantic Identity*. Many of his primary sources are out-of-print materials from the late 8th to early 19th century. Because each item in DiscoverArchive is assigned a persistent URL, readers of Schoenfield's book will always be able to find reliable links to companion Web pages.

"I think this kind of project will contribute to the scholarly conversation, because it means scholars from all over, regardless of their own particular libraries, can engage with my primary materials and take the discussion to a more sophisticated level," Schoenfield says. "It is exciting to be part of a new and potentially transformative project."

Some worthwhile items for deposit are documents done as the culmination of student course study, including theses, dissertations and capstones. Vanderbilt's history department began depositing its baccalaureate honors theses in 2006. In addition to current material, the history department was able to deposit earlier theses going back to 1992, thus making available research materials that had previously sat undiscovered on office shelves. Each submission is reviewed by library specialists to ensure the descriptions meet global standards. This means Vanderbilt student research can automatically be shared internationally.

The physics and astronomy department, the psychology department, and the Peabody College of Education and Human Development also have active capstone and undergraduate honors collections in DiscoverArchive.

In order to preserve Vanderbilt's scholarship, and thereby its history, digital content must be collected, preferably as soon as possible after its creation. Meanwhile, older digital content can also be collected and exposed to new audiences. DiscoverArchive pulls together digital scholarship from across the university and creates a balance between access and preservation that meets vanderbilt community needs.

DiscoverArchive was started by Roberta Winjum, assistant university librarian. For more information contact Ronee Francis, DiscoverArchive manager, at [r.francis@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:r.francis@vanderbilt.edu).

DiscoverArchive can be found at <http://DiscoverArchive.vanderbilt.edu>.



Ronee Francis



Roberta Winjum

# Vanderbilt Television News Archive celebrates historic 40th anniversary

BY WHITNEY WEEKS

The 1968 Democratic Convention, held in Chicago on August 26-29, stands as an important event in the nation's political and cultural history. The divisive politics of the convention and the violence between police and anti-Vietnam war protesters in the streets and parks of Chicago gave the city a black-eye for years.

The Vanderbilt Television News Archive, which celebrated its 40th anniversary on Aug. 5, had been in operation for just 21 days when the convention began. The archive had started taping the evening news of the three major networks of the time—CBS, NBC and ABC—as a three-week experiment. Recording the news of the controversial convention was the archive's first major historic event. It has had many, many more since—both Gulf Wars, the Watergate hearings, the Clinton impeachment hearings, and the terrorist attacks in 2001. (Over the years, the archive has added two additional networks—CNN and Fox News.)

The archive was the brainchild of Nashville insurance executive Paul Simpson. He had been startled to learn that each of America's three major networks erased the tapes of their television news programs just two weeks after their initial broadcast. No permanent records were kept anywhere.

The archive's importance to Vanderbilt, to the Heard Library, and to scholars and researchers can hardly be overstated. It serves as a resource for classroom learning and research, both within Vanderbilt and in educational institutions throughout the world.

The collection includes innumerable personal stories and world events, and gives an important representation of United States and world history for the past 40 years. Beginning with the tumultuous events of 1968, the Vanderbilt Television News Archive has captured history as it was experienced in the living rooms of television viewers. It also preserves the work of such important journalists as Walter Cronkite, David Brinkley, Tom Brokaw and countless others.

"We think it's a really important and unique resource," says Marshall Breeding, director of innovative technology and research. "Vanderbilt is the only library in the world that has a systematic archiving of television news. If we didn't do it, there wouldn't be objective access to the content. You can get newspapers and magazines from other places, but we're the only place doing this."

Facing extinction on three previous occasions because of funding concerns, the archive has gone completely digital and now creates a positive cash flow under the leadership of Breeding and John Lynch, director of the Vanderbilt Television News Archive.

A world authority in the field of library technology, Breeding

has guided the technology efforts that led to digitizing the archive. In a digital archive, more options for access are possible; they are more easily searched and catalogued; and they occupy less physical storage space. An initial push put the collection's index and catalog materials onto the Web in a format which users could easily access. A second part of the digital plan allowed users to place and pay for orders online. Finally, and most recently, the archive launched a service that streams certain materials—those from NBC and CNN—online to the Vanderbilt campus and to those colleges and universities that subscribe to the collection's services.

All this has led to the substantial fiscal improvement in the archive, which is supported by income earned through its for-pay



John Lynch (left), director of the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, and Marshall Breeding, director of innovative technology and research, are shown with a bank of TV monitors in the background at the archive offices.

services, including fees paid by the Library of Congress, by more than 150 subscribing colleges and universities, and by individuals who request footage. A grant from the National Science Foundation and two consecutive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities helped pay for converting 40,000 hours of three-quarter-inch tapes into digital files.

Additional fiscal support has come from such generous supporters as Michael J. Perik and his wife Elizabeth, who made a commitment earlier this year to establish a significant endowment for the archive.

"When I came in 1975, they had a dream of a time when you could sit down at a computer and do exactly what you can do today," Lynch says. "For a long time, that's what I was working towards. That technological achievement is now here."

For more information about the archive, go to <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu/>.

# W. T. Bandy Center celebrates its 40th anniversary, hosts major conference

The W.T. Bandy Center, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, hosted the International Nineteenth Century French Studies Colloquium Oct. 16-18. "Empire, Identity, Exoticism" was the theme of this 34th annual colloquium, which attracted about 250 scholars from around the world.

Held at Vanderbilt's Student Life Center, the conference included 58 panel sessions, two Bandy Center open houses, and a closing banquet. The plenary speakers were Laurent Dubois of Duke University and George Van Den Abbeele from the University of California-Santa Cruz.

The conference was organized by Professor T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, director of the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies. The co-organizer was Lecturer in French Lisa Weiss, assistant director of the Bandy Center.

The W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire Studies was founded 40 years ago in 1968 by the College of Arts and Science as a joint project between the Department of French and Italian and the library. To reflect more accurately the growth in the holdings of the center, its name was changed in 1998 to The W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies.

"The W.T. Bandy collections have grown to include 18th century popular French fiction, French theater, and 20th century prose and poetry—all building on the Baudelaire literature collection foundation," said Librarian Yvonne Boyer. "The center is an important resource for scholars of French literature. Over the years, the center has welcomed many international visitors, becoming a significant destination research library."

The NCFCS Conference Web site is: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/french\\_ital/ncsf](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/french_ital/ncsf).

## Retiring University Librarian called a "leader of libraries"

*Editor's note: Several people requested that we print Interim University Librarian Flo Wilson's remarks about Paul Gherman presented at the University Librarian's retirement party.*

"Paul is obviously an accomplished administrator and leader of libraries. He possesses a keen sense of libraries needing to move forward in what we do and how we do it in order to stay abreast of the rapidly changing nature of information, libraries, and libraries' roles within the academic enterprise.

"Paul is a visionary with a sense that libraries need to be involved in a variety of ways in the academic arena, not just in the role of providing traditional print and electronic collections. He is well connected in the profession and well aware of current developments and trends in academic libraries. He challenges staff to think creatively and move forward.

"He listens well and seeks advice and counsel on a regular basis. He really cares what people think. Paul delegates a great deal of responsibility to those he comes to trust, but he is also always available for guidance and consultation. He is generally not a 'detail person' but does a wonderful job of understanding the environment and the need for thoughtful action. He meets with his direct reports regularly, and uses meetings as a vehicle for working with groups.

"Paul is supportive of staff. He looks for ways to reward and promote those who are doing well, frequently offering them opportunities to grow in their jobs and to take on new responsibilities.



Interim University Librarian Flo Wilson prepares to present Paul Gherman with an "Oscar" at his retirement party.

"Paul is well respected by his peers, and he seeks to work collaboratively with libraries in other institutions. He was certainly the guiding force in the creation of the Nashville Area Library Alliance here, and he is very active in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL).

"Over the last 12 years, Paul has led the Library through many successes; we thank him for his leadership and substantial contributions. We will miss him."

# Closing the chapter on Paul Gherman's excellent career as university librarian



Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos congratulates Paul Gherman at the university librarian's retirement party.



Robert Early, executive associate vice chancellor for development and alumni relations and counselor to the chancellor, congratulates Paul Gherman on a job well done.



Paul Gherman chats with longtime friends Professor J. León Helguera and his wife, Byrd, both members of the Heard Society.



A sizeable crowd mingles at Paul Gherman's retirement party.



Paul Gherman visits with noted Nashville author and Heard Society member W. Ridley Wills II (right) and Associate Provost Dennis Hall.

# LIBRARY SUPPORTERS 2007-2008

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, 2007-June 30, 2008). To learn more about supporting the library—or to let us know about any omissions or errors on the list—please contact Beth Boord at 615/343-4717 or [beth.boord@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:beth.boord@vanderbilt.edu).

## HEARD SOCIETY

*Members of the Heard Library Society, named for Chancellor and Mrs. Alexander Heard, generously gave \$1,000 or more during the past fiscal year.*

Lee Richard Adler (BA'85)  
Antonio J. Almeida (BA'78) and Margaret Taylor Almeida (BS'79)  
Julie D. Blagojevich and Robert Blagojevich  
David E. Blum (BA'77) and Janet R. Blum  
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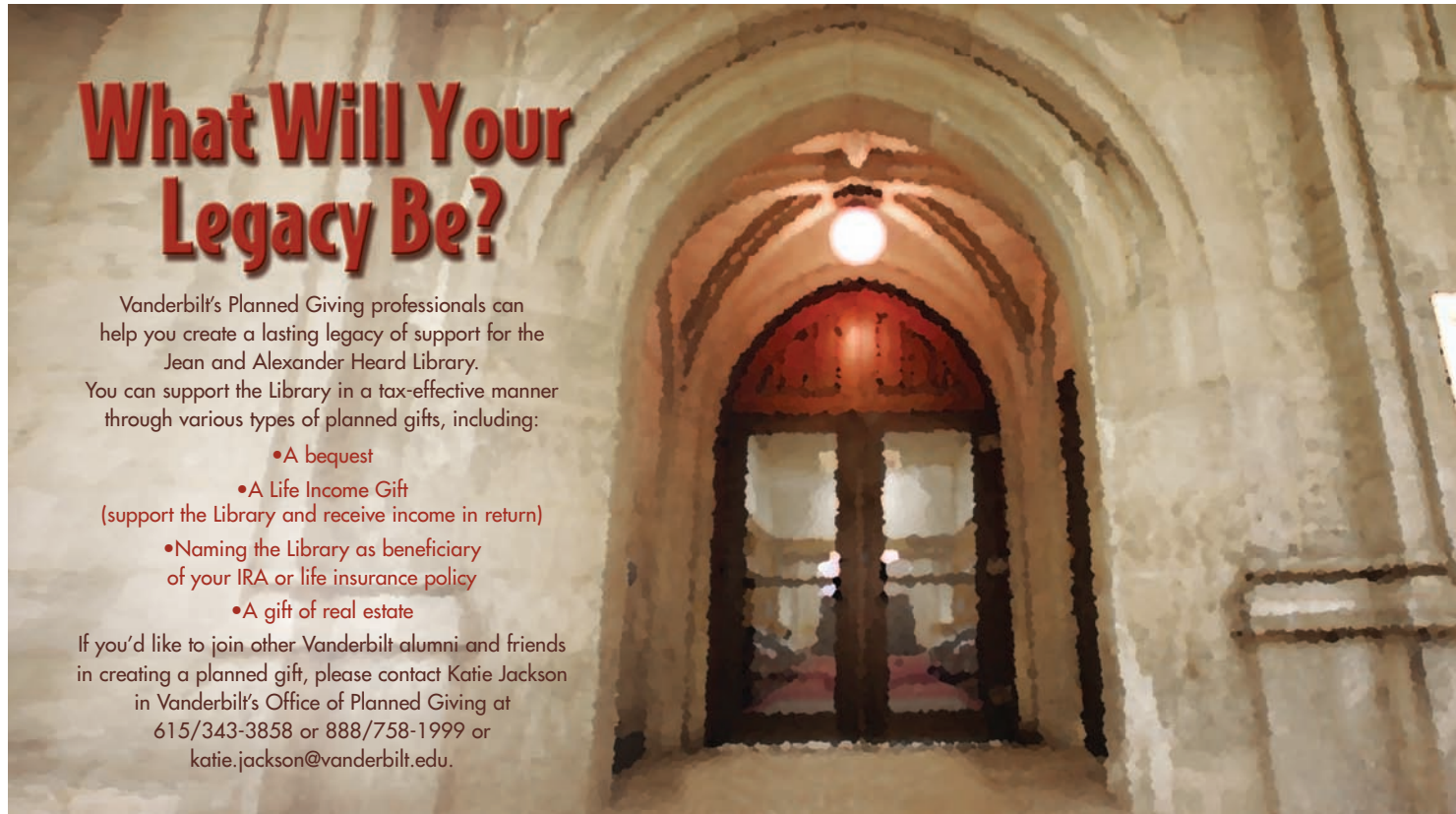


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