

Friends explore online resources in the University Libraries

By Bess Robinson
Instruction Librarian & FOL Secretary

Libraries comprise so much more than just books! From 1:30 - 2:30 on Thursday, 28 April, Friends met for a romp through our online resources. They learned how to discover what the Libraries (McWherter and its branches) own, including videos, music, online books, and government publications. They explored some of our hundreds of databases, which contain millions of articles on just about any topic that one can imagine. They were surprised that it's possible to listen to some full-text articles, email or save articles to a USB key, and get online help citing articles

Using the libraries' online resources can help with a variety of interests. Friends with Internet access may use the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) databases from anywhere; anyone may use any online resource in McWherter Library by coming to the Research and Information Services (RIS) area on the first floor and asking for one of the six guest computers, though sometimes there's a bit of a wait. For \$1, library users may buy a card that they may use to print out what they find online or to make photocopies. (Those who wish to print or photocopy items will need to add cost—ten cents per page—to the card.) Feel free to ask questions at the RIS Desk--the folks there would be bored if you didn't.

Ned McWherter's portrait hangs in the rotunda of the McWherter Library, along with the portraits of President Shirley Raines and the late Senator Leonard Dunavant.

Statement from Dr. Raines about Gov. Ned McWherter's death on April 5, 2011

"Everyone associated with the University of Memphis is saddened by the death of Gov. Ned McWherter. His reputation as "The Education Governor" is nowhere more evident than the magnificent library on the U of M campus, which bears his name and which honors his commitment to education in general and to the University of Memphis in particular. On behalf of all of us in the University of Memphis community, for whom his friendship has meant so much, I offer his family our sincerest condolences."

Ned R. McWherter Library: A Fitting Tribute

By Ed Frank
Curator, Special Collections, University Libraries

A fountain of truth and knowledge: That's how the late Ned Ray McWherter (1930-2011) described the library that was named after him, in a letter he sent to Friends of the University of Memphis Libraries, along with a generous donation, in late 1997. Thereafter he became a lifetime member of the Friends.

A sharecropper's son whose parents had only elementary and junior-high educations, Ned McWherter himself never went to college. But his native intelligence, willingness to work hard, and drive led him to two outstandingly successful careers: as an entrepreneur and as a politician. Along the way he became an officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard, a rare accomplishment for a man lacking a college diploma.

A Democrat, Ned McWherter was elected to the state House in 1968. After only two terms he became Speaker of the House, the office he held for fourteen of his twenty years in the legislature. He was elected the 46th Governor of Tennessee in 1986 and served two terms (1987-1995). He was instrumental in passage of the "Sunshine Law," which opened up legislative meetings, and the "21st Century Schools" reform, which increased education funding and teacher pay, especially in the poorer counties and districts. Although his TennCare program fared less well, he was one of the first governors in the country to recognize the unsustainability of Medicare as it then existed, and try to do something about it.



During his service as governor, personal income growth in Tennessee ranked #1 in the nation, unemployment reached the lowest rate in state history, and the state twice received recognition as having the best fiscal management .

It is fitting that in their March 1994 meeting, the State Board of Regents unanimously voted to approve naming the new library at then-Memphis State University for Ned R. McWherter, a consistent friend and supporter of education in general and West Tennessee education in particular.

The faculty and staff of the McWherter Library and the members of the Friends mourn his passing, honor his service and achievements, and will carry on down the path he marked out.

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FOLUSA + ALTA = ALTAFF*

By Tom Mendina
FOL Vice President 2011

The Friends of Libraries at the University of Memphis has throughout most of its sixteen-year history enjoyed membership in the former national organization for friends of libraries groups, FOLUSA – Friends of Libraries U. S. A., an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA). FOLUSA was a fruitful context in which to acquire ideas for the local friends group, to interact with other friends groups, and to have a voice at the national level of friends affairs.

A bit of history: The American Library Trustee Association (ALTA) was founded in 1890, later changing its name to the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates. On a different front, in 1975, a project of the Committee on Friends of the Library within ALA's Library Administration and Management Association undertook a project which, in 1979, resulted in the incorporation of FOLUSA.

On February 1, 2009, FOLUSA and ALTA joined forces to become an expanded *division* of ALA known as ALTAFF, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. Through this partnership, ALTAFF unites libraries' voices to speak out on behalf of library services, free public access to information, and need for financial and other resources.

The new organization, ALTAFF, is a national network of library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses. Benefits of ALTAFF membership include a 24-page newsletter six times a year, full access to all past issues of newsletters, full access to all past Friends on Campus articles, members-only toolkits, special offers and discounts on fundraisers such as Page-A-Day calendars and Entertainment books,

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Taking Care of Business

By Janell Rudolph
FOL President 2011

I have been on the Executive Council for sixteen years, serving mostly as newsletter editor, and I have always looked forward to our meetings. The atmosphere was at times charged with emotion, as when Pierre Secher revealed his discovery of a suitcase full of letters in his mother's New York apartment. That discovery was of the written exchanges between his father and relatives left behind to suffer the fate of Jews in Nazi Germany. Pierre began translating the letters and donated them to the U of M Special Collections Department in order to help future researchers. He served as president of the Friends from 1997 through 2003. He later published what he discovered about his family in the book *Left Behind in Nazi Vienna: Letters of a Jewish Family Caught in the Holocaust, 1939-1941*.

Now I am president, serving with fond memories of many FOL councils before me. Being a small group, we have always taken care of business informally and amiably. Yet, we adhere to our bylaws and to *Robert's Rules* when needed. The issue that called for adherence to both arose in our November meeting and extended through the February meeting when the Council voted to purchase a tiger for the Libraries to help celebrate the university centennial next year. There were strong feelings on both sides of the issue, both based on fiscal responsibility: spending from the budget for the tiger or spending for much needed library resources. We aim to help get both. Individuals may chip in for the purchase by contacting Kelly Davis at kdavis9@memphis.edu or call 678-4299. Dean Ford is asking the staff and faculty of the Libraries to donate as well.



The tiger will be constructed soon and the Executive Council will have an opportunity, along with the Dean and the staff of the Libraries, to consider design options. This tiger will definitely be a library tiger. It will have a prominent place in the library after being displayed with the other tigers on campus for the centennial.

Friends of the University Libraries campaign to help finance library resources and will continue to do so. In April, Friends met for a hands-on introduction to and a better understanding of the many online resources that our library offers to supplement the book collection that so many of us equate with libraries—and that marks the modern academic library. We see how an academic library has different needs than a public library; we also see the similarities.

Our membership roll is short but vigorous; our endowment is approaching the \$100,000 mark; our Delta—*Everything Southern!* conference is still going strong; and our Faculty Scholarship Week still showcases faculty accomplishment. We disagree sometimes but still remain Friends—and continue moving forward.

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eligibility to apply for the Baker & Taylor and Best Friends Awards, etc. Also, members now receive free access to the full PDF of the book *101+ Ideas for Libraries and Friends* (which the U of M library owns in paper format).

The ALTAFF newsletter, “The Voice for America’s Libraries,” presents news and ideas for friends of libraries (and other library-supportive) groups. The November, 2010, issue contains an article on our Delta conference: “Delta – *Everything Southern!* A continuing success at University of Memphis” with a photo of Delta Chairman, Willy Bearden; photographer Murray Riis; and Delta speaker, Martha Foose, all participants in the 2010 Delta event.

ALTAFF will continue to build on the work and success of both the former ALTA and FOLUSA by helping Trustees and Friends work together at the local, state, and national levels to promote and advocate for libraries, encouraging the development of library foundations, and engaging corporate supporters to unite and strengthen voices in support of libraries. Regrettably, the annual membership cost of ALTAFF (\$125) for our friends group is three times that of the former FOLUSA membership cost—a cost that bears discussion.

*This article is based largely upon information available at the ALTAFF website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/index.cfm>

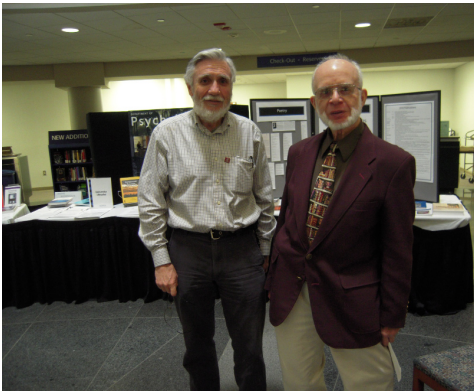
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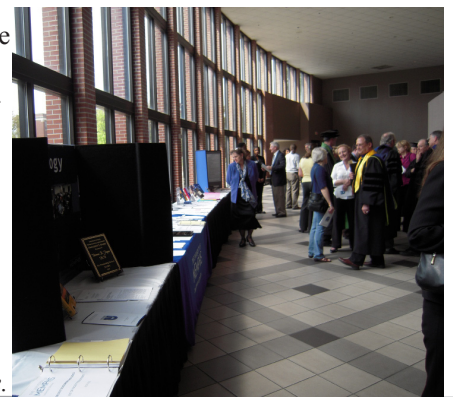


Faculty Scholarship Week highlights research and publication

Once a year, beginning in 2004, the Friends dedicate one week to recognize faculty for their research and publication, whether it be in the form of books, articles, musical productions or other forms of the arts. In order to do so, a number of volunteers work together to gather the information, display it in the McWherter rotunda and then move it to the faculty convocation site, which this year was in the Rose Theatre on campus on April 8. Coordinating the gathering of items (and returning them to their rightful owners) was Tom Mendina, working with Dr. Tom Nenon and various representatives of academic colleges, schools and departments. Coordinating the volunteers was Pat Faudree, who scheduled Friends as well as UMAR members throughout the week.

Volunteers who stationed themselves in the library and Rose Theatre for the event helped explain the displays for visitors to the library and convocation. Many students were not aware that their professors and instructors did anything but teach and were delighted to see what their own teachers had produced. Part of the display included notebooks that listed the scholarship production for 2010.

Faculty also share their expertise in giving talks and lectures for various organizations. During Faculty Scholarship Week, two faculty presented programs open and free to the public at McWherter Library: on April 5, Dr. Grant Thrall, Chair of Excellence in Sustainable Real Estate; on April 6, Dr. Julia Heath, Director of the Center for Economic Education.



These photos show volunteers and the display in McWherter rotunda and at Rose Theatre.

Friends of the University Libraries
Ned R. McWherter Library
The University of Memphis
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