

Chronicle

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The Jean and Alexander Heard Library
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From the University Librarian:



Paul M. Gherman was named University librarian in July 1996, with responsibility for directing the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. He came to Vanderbilt from his position as director of libraries at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

I have enjoyed my first few months as Vanderbilt's new University librarian. When I arrived here from Kenyon College in July, I found a smoothly functioning library system with dedicated staff. Much credit should go to Shirley Hallblade, associate University librarian, who functioned as acting director of libraries for two years. Among the accomplishments of her term was her guidance of the Library's migration from our old version of ACORN to our new one.

Not only did I find Library operations in good order, but I was very pleased at the warm reception I received from the Library's contributors, who are an additional source of strength and support for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

One of my earliest duties was a pleasant one: to host in October the first Library-wide reception to honor staff who had achieved service milestones. The Library is always well represented at the University and Medical Center service ceremonies,

and we wanted to recognize the 37 Library staff who had amassed 480 years of service to the libraries. We hope to make this event an annual tradition.

We were especially honored to have Shirley Watts, director of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library at Blair School, celebrate her 40th year of service. Shirley's friends commemorated this event with an endowed acquisitions fund named for her and celebrated at a reception held later in October (see photo on page 5).

In September, the Library division directors

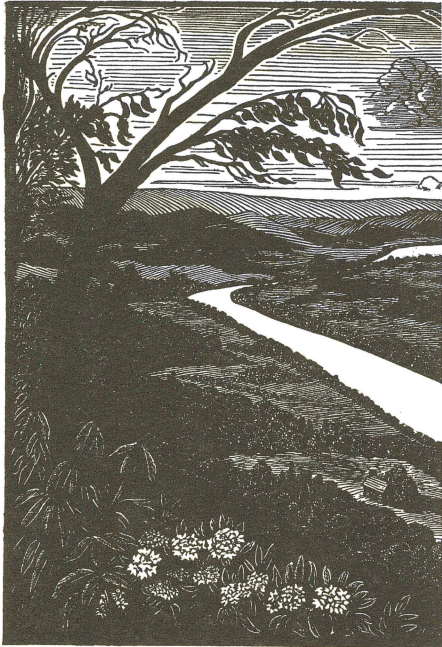
convened for a one-day retreat to discuss longer-term goals and future directions for the Library. The result of that day was the formulation of a Library mission statement, as well as a goals statement. Those documents have been distributed to Library staff and to deans. They are reproduced in this issue on page 6 for your information. I feel strongly that an organization must identify its desired direction in order to ensure that all of our activities contribute to the realization of our goals.

Among those goals is the development of partnerships with local and regional institutions. No library can stand alone in these days of electronic information, shrinking budgets, and increasing demands for specialized services. Preliminary discussions are under way to identify institutions with which the Vanderbilt Library has natural geographic and subject affiliations. I think the possibilities for such cooperation are exciting and challenging;

(please turn to page 6)



Special Collections navigates the Rivers of America



Theresa Sherrer Davidson, the wife of Donald Davidson, created original woodcuts to illustrate her husband's book, *THE TENNESSEE*, which is part of the *Rivers of America* series.



The names speak of America's heritage, both native and European: Susquehanna. French Broad. Monongahela. Chagres. Tennessee. In all, 62 waterways found their way into print in the Rivers of America project, beginning with the publication of *Kennebec: Cradle of Americans* in 1937 and ending with *The American: River of El Dorado* in 1974. Initiated by Constance Lindsay Skinner, editor, the Rivers series was published by Farrar & Rinehart and later Holt, Rinehart, and Winston as a commercial venture.

The Special Collections Gallery of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library held a number of exhibits this year featuring materials from the Rivers of America series, while particularly focusing on the rivers of Tennessee. The brainchild of Dr. Alexander McLeod, a member of the Friends of the Library who serves on the Library board and is himself a collector of the Rivers series, the exhibits dovetailed with the Tennessee Bicentennial. They

drew upon holdings in the map and Fugitive/Agrarian collections, as well as the pristine collection of Carol Fitzgerald, a dedicated Florida bibliophile. The exhibits took viewers through the state, bearing them through story and song to new understandings of Tennessee's place within American history.

The journey started in May. "Exploring the Rivers of Tennessee" documented various Tennessee rivers and regions. Forty of the earliest maps from the Robert A. McGaw Tennessee Map Collection, amassed by James C. Kelly, MA'72, PhD'74, were exhibited through July. The McGaw Collection was presented to Vanderbilt in 1988 by the Friends of the Library and by friends of Robert Armistead McGaw, an alumnus of the

College of Arts and Science and secretary of the University, emeritus.

An exhibit showcasing all 65 volumes of the Rivers of America series took place from August to

**"This could have been said
by (Native Americans) in
Tennessee about the rivers:
'We have lived our lives
along your rivers and you
cannot wash the memory of
us out.'"**

*From The French Broad
by Wilma Dykeman*

October. A reception and gallery talk was held in September for Fitzgerald, collector and bibliographer of the series, who served as guest curator of the exhibit.

The exhibit also featured songs about Tennessee Rivers from the book *Songs of the Rivers of America*. It has been videotaped for the Library of Congress Center for the Book.

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, attended this event and the Friends of the Library din-

"There is no end to astonishment when one looks at the conformation of the Tennessee and its tributaries. From its left, or southern, bank, the Upper Tennessee receives the waters of three great rivers: the French Broad, the Little Tennessee, and the Hiwassee. All three of these tributaries seem perversely to flout nature's law, since they take what looks like an uphill route to join the main stream."

From The Tennessee by Donald Davidson

ner in October. The Library of Congress will host a 60th anniversary symposium on the Rivers books in April.

The Tennessee

The last exhibit in the series centered on Donald Davidson's *The Tennessee*. Another in the Rivers of America series, the two-volume set was published in 1946 and 1948. The final typescript for *The Tennessee*, Davidson's sometimes crotchety correspondence about the book with his publisher and with fel-

low Fugitive Allen Tate, and original woodcut prints of illustrations for the book by Davidson's wife, Theresa Sherrer Davidson, were included in the exhibit.

The Tennessee was exhibited from November through December and will reappear this spring as part of "Tennessee Folklore: Song and Story." The latter exhibit will also feature recent Special Collections acquisitions on Tennessee folk songs assembled by the late George Boswell, BA'39, MA'40, PhD'50.

BONNIE ARANT ERTELT



Carol Fitzgerald, left, collector and bibliographer of The Rivers of America series, with Dotsie McLeod

Dykeman addresses Friends annual dinner

Wilma Dykeman, Tennessee state historian and author of *The French Broad*, one of the books in the Rivers of America series, was the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library 23rd annual membership dinner. Dykeman's address centered on her preparation and writing of *The French Broad*, which has been in print since 1955.

The author of other well-known books including *The Tall Woman*, *Return the Innocent Earth*, and *Tennessee: A Bicentennial History*, Dykeman's most recent publication is *Haunting Memories: Echoes and Images of Tennessee's Past*.



Wilma Dykeman chats with Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Heard.

In memoriam



Frances Neel Cheney, 1906–1996

Following her death on May 5, 1996, we learned that Frances Neel “Fannie” Cheney had requested that her memorials be made to the Library. She was truly a friend.

Fannie was born on August 19, 1906. She earned a BA degree from Vanderbilt in 1928, a master’s degree in library science from Peabody in 1934, an MSLS from Columbia University in 1944, and a doctor of letters degree from Marquette University. She began work in the Vanderbilt Library in 1928 and was assistant to Allen Tate, the chair of poetry at the Library of Congress, from 1942 to 1945. She later served as professor and associate director of the Peabody School of Library Science, retiring from the faculty in 1975 as professor emerita. She held offices in library organizations and received many honors. For 30 years she reviewed reference books for the *Wilson Library Bulletin*.

In 1928, Fannie married Brainard “Lon” Cheney. Through correspondence, travel, and legendary hospitality, they became friends with literary luminaries of the day—Flannery O’Connor, Robert Penn Warren, and John Crowe Ransom, to name a few. Lon died in 1990, and Fannie spent her last years in a nursing home. Here she entertained visitors with recollections of her experiences in the world of books and ideas.

T. MARK HODGES, FORMER DIRECTOR
OF THE ESKIND BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY

Editor’s Note:

Anyone wishing to make a gift in memory of Frances Cheney may do so with a check payable to Vanderbilt University, designating the Friends of the Library as the fund to which the memorial will go. Please indicate on the check that the gift is in memory of Frances Cheney and mail to the Office of Gift Records, 201 Alumni Hall, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37240.

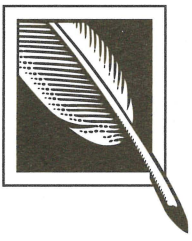
The Library Development Office is aware of two other occasions recently in which surviving family members have designated the Library as the charity of choice to memorialize loved ones. They are:

John Conder, Vanderbilt Professor of English, who died September 28, 1996, in Nashville. Professor Conder had been on the faculty since 1970.

Charlotte Graham Pierson, assistant in Collections Development at the Heard Library since 1987, who died December 30, 1996, in a automobile accident in Arkansas. Her husband and daughter were also killed in the accident. She had been employed at Vanderbilt since 1978.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Library in memory of John Conder or Charlotte Pierson may make checks payable to Vanderbilt University, designating the Library as the recipient of the gift and the name of the individual to be memorialized. Gifts will be placed into the appropriate Library gift account, and the Library Development Office will send to family members the names of those who have made gifts.

If you or members of your family have questions about making the Library a charity of choice for memorials or honoraria, please contact the Library Development Office, Heard Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37240; 615/322-7102.



F O O T N O T E S



Shirley Marie Watts, director of the Ann Potter Wilson Library, receives congratulations from Peabody alumnus Jay Dawson at a reception recognizing her 40 years of service to the Library.

In her honor, Dawson, other alumni, and Watts's colleagues and friends established an acquisitions fund benefiting the music library.



Last fall, University Librarian Paul Gherman, right, and Donna Mancini, second from right, director of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County, hosted a gathering of public, college, and university librarians in the Nashville area. The group has formed a consortium to find better ways to share books, collections, materials, and databases.

By the numbers

The Heard Library supports the goals of the University in many ways. Making available publications in various subject areas is one way the Library furthers the academic programs. Here are the average subscription rates that the Library paid for journals and periodicals in those areas in 1994–1995:

Arts	\$75.36
Biology	469.87
Chemistry	1,081.31
Economics	171.77
Engineering	369.50
English	37.94
German	89.29
History	71.70
Latin American Studies	81.29
Philosophy	118.85
Psychology	265.69
Sociology	128.74

The prices increase every year, with the average annual increase about 10 percent. If you would like to help the Heard Library defray some of these costs, please call the Library Development Office at 615/322-7102.

Drake papers prized addition

Negotiations completed during the fall of 1996 will bring to Special Collections the papers of Robert Drake, a Vanderbilt alumnus who has been on the English faculty of the University of Tennessee for 30 years.

Drake, BA'52, MA'53, is the author of six short story collections. The latest, *What Will You Do for an Encore? and Other Stories*, appeared last fall from Mercer University Press. Recently Drake received word that the press will reissue the collection *The Home Place*, and the 25th anniversary edition of *Amazing Grace*, his first group of tales set in a small West Tennessee town in the 1930s and 1940s.

Amazing Grace is dedicated to "Donald Davidson (1893–1968) Prophet; Austin Warren (1899–1986) Evangelist; and Cleanth Brooks [1906–1994] Apostle." Drake studied under Davidson at Vanderbilt; critic Austin Warren encouraged him to write fiction; Cleanth Brooks, a family friend, drew Drake to Yale University for his doctorate.

The Drake Papers will be transferred to Nashville this spring. The author will appear for a gallery talk in Special Collections later in the year.

MARICE WOLFE, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

Mission Statement Jean and Alexander Heard Library Vanderbilt University

The Library's unique and vital role is to further the University's mission of generating and disseminating knowledge through teaching, learning, research, and service. The Library is an essential academic center that serves as a place of discovery, exchange, and advancement of ideas through its commitment to accessing new scholarship and archiving accumulated knowledge.

Staff are dedicated to offering the highest level of service in responding to the information needs of its diverse users and in helping users understand and effectively use new and traditional forms of information delivery.

The first priority of the Library is to provide these services to Vanderbilt faculty and students through active outreach across the campus. Secondly, the Library is a resource for the larger academic and scholarly community through its participation in cooperative and collaborative local, regional, and national partnerships.

From the University Librarian...

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we must always remain aware, however, that Vanderbilt users and their information needs are our primary constituency.

To expand our communication efforts to that primary group, we not only will be distributing the *Chronicle* to Friends and members of the Heard Library Society, but we also will make copies available more widely on campus. We hope to broaden the base of support for the Library and make the campus community more aware of all forms of Library activity and outreach.

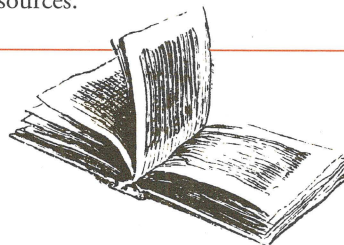
In the next issue, I'm delighted to announce, we will reproduce Carol Fitzgerald's gallery talk on the Rivers of America series, a featured event in Special Collections this fall. We appreciate Carol's expertise and generosity in sharing her scholarly research with all of us. (Please see related article on page 2.)

I look forward to getting to know more of you as my time at Vanderbilt continues. I know that our combined efforts will strengthen Library collections and services for all of us.

PAUL M. GHERMAN

Statement of Goals

- To support the teaching, research, and service missions of the University by developing strong information resources in book, manuscript, archival, electronic, and other formats.
- To select, organize, and provide broad and timely access to information resources wherever and whenever they are needed.
- To promote the use of Vanderbilt library collections and other information resources by creating an environment that encourages learning through effective teaching strategies and excellent service.
- To preserve library materials and ensure their availability to current and future scholars.
- To develop and maintain appropriate physical and technological infrastructures conducive to learning.
- To recruit, hire, and retain qualified staff who are committed to service, innovation, and communication. Additionally, to foster a supportive staff community that rewards innovation, encourages risk-taking, and accepts failure as a part of growth and exploration.
- To initiate and participate in creative partnerships with local, state, and national agencies that will make accessible to the larger community the unique resources of this library and enhance access by Vanderbilt faculty and students to other information resources.



If you like to read, read on

During the past few years, the Library has asked its Friends and other Vanderbilt alumni expressing an interest in its work about the books they are reading. As might be expected, we found a wide variety of books being read.

We also asked alumni in Reunion classes to identify books that have been most influential in their lives. Many of their responses were thoughtful and interesting. From time to time, we will share some of their comments with our readers, but here is a preliminary look at what we found.

The most popular books recently read are *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and its People in the Age of AIDS* by Abraham Verghese; *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt—The Home Front in World War II*, by Doris Goodwin; *Lincoln* by David Donald; *My American Journey* by Colin Powell; *Speak Now Against the Day* by Nashvillian John Egerton; *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books* by Nicholas Basbanes; and *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang.

Other popular authors included Jane Austen, John Berendt, John Grisham, John Harvey, Ann Patchett, Peter Ellis, and Ann Tyler.

Alumni named the Bible more than any other book as having the most influence on their lives. It was followed by J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand. Other influential books included *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, *A*

Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving, and *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy. Other influential authors included William Faulkner and Plato.

Here are some alumni comments about influential books and authors. Please let us know what you are reading and why certain books are important to you. We'll use the information you send us, with your permission, in future issues of the CHRONICLE.

"The Bible for religious inspiration; Shakespeare for beauty of language, earthy humor, clarity of thought; Heinlein (*Stranger in a Strange Land*) wrote a brilliant philosophical and political treatise that is entertaining as well."

CLASS OF 1965

"*Brother to a Dragonfly*, the Bible, *Prince of Tides*: They are spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically expansive and growth oriented; all three invite a sense of healing and community with the 'big picture' world."

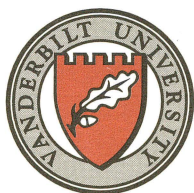
CLASS OF 1980

"*The Prophet* and *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* Especially the latter (by Dr. Seuss)."

CLASS OF 1985

"*Perfect Husbands and Other Fairy Tales; To Dance with the White Dog; and You Just Don't Understand*: They provide an opportunity for one to reflect on the quality and importance of one's relationships."

CLASS OF 1970



CHRONICLE is published by the Friends of the Library under the auspices of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, or call (615) 322-7102.

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



Make a Difference. Be a Friend.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is at the heart of Vanderbilt University's academic mission. Excellence in teaching and research can be sustained only when excellence in libraries is maintained. Because of ever-increasing pressures on University resources, the continued generosity of Friends of the Library is critical to ensure superior library collections and services. You can support the Heard Library mission by sending your gift to the address below. Annual membership fees range from \$25 for contributing members to \$1,000 for Heard Society membership.

Contributions can be designated to support specific areas of interest:

- Central Library & the Sara Shannon Stevenson Science and Engineering Library
- Divinity Library
- Education Library
- Alyne Queener Massey Law Library
- Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library
- Special Collections & University Archives
- Anne Marie and Thomas B. Walker Jr. Management Library
- Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to Friends of the Library, The Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-0007.

What's black and white and read all over?

Newspapers from the regions of the United States that attract the greatest number of Vanderbilt students.

The Heard Library is often asked by students if the following newspapers are available. All prices listed here (as of fall 1996) include daily and Sunday editions and any institutional discounts provided by the newspaper publishers.

While none of these newspapers is available online at this time, predictions are that many will be within the next two to three years.

If you are interested in helping the Library subscribe to any or all of these newspapers for student use, please call the Library Development Office at 615/322-7102.

A special note to those celebrating Reunion in 1997: Perhaps you will consider making a gift to fund one or more subscriptions as part of your

Reunion pledge for the next few years. Please contact the Library Development Office or your Reunion class coordinator for more information.

<i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i>	\$250
<i>Birmingham News</i>	416
<i>Charlotte Observer</i>	401
<i>Chattanooga Times</i>	322
<i>Cleveland Plain-Dealer</i>	348
<i>Commercial Appeal (Memphis)</i>	258
<i>Dallas Morning News</i>	358
<i>Houston Chronicle</i>	550
<i>Knoxville News-Sentinel</i>	223
<i>Louisville Courier-Journal</i>	314
<i>Miami Herald</i>	358
<i>New Orleans Times-Picayune</i>	346
<i>St. Louis Post-Herald</i>	293
Total:	<u>\$4,437</u>

Friends of the Library

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