

Chronicle

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Friends to Hear Lamar Alexander at Fifteenth Annual Dinner

Lamar Alexander, new president of the University of Tennessee, former Governor of Tennessee, and 1962 Vanderbilt alumnus, will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the Library annual dinner meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 9, at the University Club.

His speech will include comments on the writing of *Six Months Off*. The book tells of the Alexanders' experiences while living in Australia last year.

Alexander went to Australia because he supposed that mail would take two weeks, maybe three, to reach there and that since he could not respond to anything urgent from back home in time for it to matter, he could relax and learn to know his family in a new way. Besides, Honey Alexander had said, "We've got to get out of here," near the end of her husband's two demanding terms as governor from 1979 to 1987.

While serving as governor, Alexander persuaded the Tennessee legislature to pass the hallmark master teacher plan in 1984 giving incentive pay to Tennessee teachers. Then he chaired U. S. Education Secretary William Bennett's task force formed to assess the nation's educational progress. That group released "The Nation's Report Card." He also served as chairman of the National Governors Association.

The former Governor became President of the University of Tennessee on July 1, 1988.

This past August in Baltimore, Alexander was awarded the James Bryant Conant Award. The award is given annually for outstanding contributions to education in the United States



and is considered one of the most prestigious in the educational community.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Friends will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner in the main dining room at 7:30 p.m. The price for the dinner is \$25 per person. The event is open only to members of the Friends of the Library.

New officers and members of the Friends Board of Directors will be elected during the brief business meeting. President William J. Darby will report on the organization's activities over the past year.

All members are encouraged to attend as the gala dinner meeting represents the high point of the membership year. Those interested in joining the Friends or renewing membership should call the Library Administration offices at 322-7100.

Bold New Acquisition Enhances Fugitive, Agrarian Collection

Acquisition of an important collection of books, manuscripts, and letters belonging to John Crowe Ransom and Peter Taylor for the Vanderbilt Library's Special Collections this past summer involved bold actions and quick thinking on the part of key players from the Friends of the Library, the Heard Library Society, and university officials.

The materials were purchased from Stuart Wright, a professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a publisher of fine books under the imprint of Palaemon Press. Wright is a noted collector of Southern literary materials and has published bibliographies of prominent writers.

Following a visit in May with Wright at his home, where she saw the collection, Jean Heard brought the availability of these significant materials with their strong Vanderbilt association to our attention.

Within a month of our learning of their availability, Dean Jacque Voegeli arranged an evaluation of them by T. Daniel Young, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English Emeritus and Ransom's biographer; Sam Fleming, a member of the Heard Library Society and Vanderbilt trustee, agreed to support the acquisition; Provost Charles A. Kiesler extended an offer of purchase; and Malcolm Getz, director of the Heard Library, accepted delivery of the materials to the library one Sunday morning within less than twenty-four hours of the acceptance of our offer.

In announcing the acquisition, Malcolm Getz said, "These heavily annotated volumes, the rich set of manuscript materials, and the personal archives, with their strong ties to Vanderbilt, build on our already impressive Jesse E. Wills Collection on the Fugitives and Agrarians, literary and cultural movements founded at Vanderbilt in the 1920s and 1930s. We are adding depth to our library's emphasis on outstanding materials for the study of Southern literature."

Professor Young, who was not aware previously that the Ransom material existed, was delighted with the purchase as was English Professor Michael Kreyling, who stated that the acquisition will enable Vanderbilt scholars

to generate definitive work on the two Southern literary figures. "This will keep our graduate program in the first rank in the area of Southern literature," he said.

The new collection contains 605 volumes from John Crowe Ransom's private, annotated library, six of his unpublished poems, 182 love letters, and numerous manuscripts.

John Crowe Ransom, born in Pulaski in 1888, was a member of the Vanderbilt faculty from 1914 to 1937 and was considered the leader of the Fugitives. Afterwards he moved to Kenyon College where he founded and edited the *Kenyon Review* for twenty years.

Among the Peter Taylor materials are first editions of all of his books and short story collections, original manuscripts of his novel, *A Summons to Memphis*, an advance proof copy of *The Old Forest and Other Stories*, letters to Taylor from Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Randall Jarrell, Robert Lowell, Eudora Welty, Katherine Anne Porter, Gertrude Stein, Sylvia Plath, and other well-known writers. A native of Trenton and a Vanderbilt alumnus, Taylor has won major literary awards, including the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the Ritz-Hemingway Award, given in 1987 for *A Summons to Memphis* as the best novel published in English during the preceding year.

Robert Penn Warren, former poet laureate of the United States and one of the Fugitives, described Taylor as a master of the short story form. At the Second Literary Festival sponsored by the Tennessee Humanities Council in 1987, Taylor was named "Tennessee Writer of the Year. He now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Marice Wolfe, head of Special Collections at the Heard Library, said that scholars may begin using the materials of the new acquisition by early 1989. For more details call 322-2807.

Chronicle is published twice yearly by the Friends of the Library under the auspices of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, and is designed by University Designer Gary Gore. Production is coordinated by Mattoinette Campbell, editor. Address inquiries to the Library, Box 155, Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, or call 322-7100.



Historical photographs embossed for the occasion of the Television News Archive celebration were presented to Paul Simpson, Luann Pilkington, Frank Grisham, and Alexander Heard by Malcolm Getz, director of The Jean and Alexander Heard Library. Shown are (from left) Mr. Grisham, Mr. Simpson, Chancellor Wyatt, Mrs. Pilkington, Chancellor Emeritus Heard, and Mr. Getz.

TV News Archive Marks a Milestone

Friends and staff of the Heard Library gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Vanderbilt Television News Archive on Sunday, August 28, at the Peabody House.

In attendance were Paul Simpson, whose idea it was to create the archive; Chancellor and Mrs. Joe B. Wyatt; former library director Frank P. Grisham, now of Atlanta; Luann Pilkington, wife of former archive director James P. Pilkington; newly-named director Scarlett Graham; and Jean and Alexander Heard.

In his remarks to the gathering, Library Director Getz explained that our unique archive has the distinction of being the only comprehensive library of television news in the nation. All evening newscasts on ABC, CBS, and NBC, as well as news specials, political conventions, and presidential speeches, are being taped for the benefit of research, reference, classroom use, or simple curiosity. The collection consists of over 18,000 network evening news broadcasts and over 4000 hours of related news specials and grows by at least ten hours each week.

It was during the spring of 1968 that alumnus Paul Simpson discovered that the three networks saved their news broadcasts for only two weeks. In the summer he inquired of the Ampex people in Chicago and Nicholson's Hi Fi in Nashville about obtaining equipment to begin taping. Next, and with Chancellor Heard's support, a committee headed by Robert McGaw began to administer the new project on the sixth stack of the General Library Building of what was then the Joint University Libraries. Frank Grisham, JUL director, and Paul Simpson were the other two members of the steering committee.

After James Pilkington was hired as administrator in 1971, the first volume of *Television News Index and Abstracts* was produced. Pilkington served as administrator until his death in 1987.

In 1973, CBS filed suit to close the Vanderbilt archive, charging copyright violation, but the suit was dropped three years later after a new copyright law was passed. In 1979,

broadcasts began to be taped on three-quarter cassette color equipment, a great improvement over the one-inch reel-to-reel black and white format.

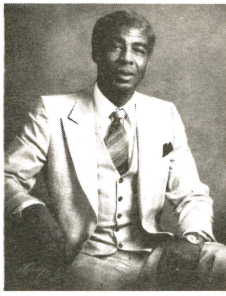
As he recounted the history of the archive, Getz identified sources of funding and expressed appreciation to those whose generosity and farsightedness have made its existence possible.

Variety said of the archive, "The astonishing aspect of the Vanderbilt project is that it is the only storehouse of the evening news shows. In an age dominated by television news, it is only the Nashville school that is providing historians with source material..." (April 5, 1972)

In fitting tribute, the *Nashville Banner* printed an editorial which stated, "As the archive passes this historic milestone, it is important that the service not only record today's news, but plan for the future--its own future...With additional money, regular tapings to the *McNeil-Lehrer Report*, *Nightline* and the CNN nightly news broadcast could be made...Additional funds would also enable the archive to have its television news index and abstract, a catalogue of the collection, transferred to a computer for easy access." (September 7, 1988)



TV News Archive Director Scarlett Graham serves a piece of twentieth anniversary cake to Malcolm Getz.



Reception Opens Kelly Miller Smith Collection

A reception to celebrate the opening of the Kelly Miller Smith papers at Special Collections was held October 13 on the terrace of the General Library Building.

The late Rev. Kelly Miller Smith, a leader in Nashville's civil rights movement and pastor of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, for thirty-three years, was assistant dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School from 1968 until his death in 1984.

A special videotape portrait of Smith, funded in part by a grant from the Tennessee Humanities Council, was shown at the opening. The tape will be used in church and academic settings to stimulate further development of the collection, and it will be used in

classes in the Divinity School and the Department of History.

The collection of more than 200,000 items includes tape recordings of Smith's sermons; correspondence with Martin Luther King, Andrew Young, Ralph Abernathy, and other civil rights activists; fourteen scrapbooks; photographs; and other materials.

Friends of the Library received invitations to the reception which were addressed by library volunteers serving on a committee headed by Katherine Barnes.

The event coincided with a conference sponsored by the Kelly Miller Smith Institute on the Black Church at the Divinity School.

Publication Offers Overview of Library

In August, Library Administration published the *Vanderbilt University Guide to Libraries*, a new, tabloid-style overview of all libraries on campus. Its purpose is to give students, faculty, and all users of the libraries general and useful information about our resources and services.

Copies were distributed to students as they registered, to parents attending briefing sessions when they brought new students to the campus, and to all libraries. Deans and vice-chancellors have received copies. Librarians

are using the guide for orientation tours and in other settings where they have opportunities to interact with students and faculty.

Friends of the Library may request copies by calling Matte Campbell, editor, at the Library Administration offices (322- 7100), visiting her office, 104 Jesup Psychology Building on the Peabody Campus, or writing to Box 155, Peabody Station, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. Copies will also be available at the Friends membership dinner on November 9.

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