

# Chronicle

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## Endowed funds needed for collections

Endowed funds to build library collections will be an important priority in The Campaign for Vanderbilt, which enters its public phase in March.

Many of the nation's leading academic research libraries are relying more heavily on endowed funds to acquire new materials. The Jean and Alexander Heard Library is no exception, according to Jacque Voegeli, dean of the College of Arts and Science and member of the Friends of the Library board of directors.

"For the Library to continue to fulfill its mission and to improve, it must have additional income from endowed funds to help it collect books, journals, and special materials, and provide the services essential to a major teaching and research university," Voegeli says.

"Donors may support acquisitions in a particular discipline or program," says Bill Mott, director of development for the Heard Library. "By doing so, they help ensure quality within specific areas of the collection such as Southern literature, French literature, or Latin American studies. Endowments are vitally needed in all library divisions."

By creating an endowed fund, donors provide annual income to support acquisitions in perpetuity. Endowed funds may bear the donor's name; honor a spouse, family member, special friend, inspiring professor; or memorialize a deceased loved one. Donors may establish an endowed acquisition fund by making a minimum pledge of \$10,000.

Every item acquired through the endowed fund will carry the donor's personalized bookplate. These special plates also will be affixed to non-book items if the donor wishes to establish a fund for materials other than books. Donors also will receive periodic reports on how their contribution is helping to meet Library needs.

"He who has toiled and bought  
for himself books,  
But his mind is empty of what  
they contain—  
Is like a lame man who engraved  
on a wall the  
figure of a foot, and he tried  
in vain to stand!"

*Ben Mishle, Samuel ha-Nagid*



honoring

*Lou Hackett Silberman*

Professor of Jewish Literature and Thought  
Vanderbilt University, 1952-1980  
Hillel Professor of Jewish Literature  
and Thought, Emeritus

*Personalized  
bookplates  
will adorn  
each item  
purchased with  
endowed funds.*

"Distinctive collections are a hallmark of the Heard Library," says Malcolm Getz, director of the Heard Library. "Endowed collections will enable Vanderbilt to remain a leader among the great research universities. We hope, through the Campaign, to add substantially to the strength of the library."

The Heard Library spans Vanderbilt with twelve divisions in nine buildings. They include the Central Library, Divinity Library, Education Library, Alyne Queener Massey Law Library, Medical Center Library, Special Collections and University Archives, Sara Shannon Stevenson Science Library, Television News Archive, Walker Management Library, Anne Potter Wilson Music Library, Observatory Library, and the Library Annex.

For additional information about endowed acquisition funds for the Library, please contact the Director of Development, Heard Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, TN, 37240, or call 615-322-7102.



*New president Walter Sullivan, left, gets pointers from former chief Charles Delzell.*

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## Friends elect new officers

The Friends of the Library elected a new slate of officers during the November dinner meeting. Walter Sullivan replaces Charles Delzell as president, Blanche Henry Weaver succeeds Eric Chazen as first vice-president, and Brigitte Porter replaces Lynne Siesser as second vice-president. New members-at-large include James E. Auer, Robert Drews, Walter Durham, Scarlett Graham, Joseph May, Elizabeth Queener, May W. Shayne, and Marilyn Whiteman.

The Friends of the Library honored outgoing president Charles Delzell by presenting

the Heard Library with an outstanding micro-filmed Italian history collection, *U.S. Military Intelligence Reports: Italy, 1918-1941*.

"Under Charles Delzell's leadership, the Friends of the Library participated in the Delbert Mann Film Festival, hosted authors Richard Marius and Lee Smith, provided increasingly important support for the Library, and increased their membership," said Malcolm Getz, Library director. "The Friends can be proud of the accomplishments of the outgoing board members and can look forward to an exciting year ahead."

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## Leadership in the Information Age: Facilities

*(This is the last in a series of articles taken from the Library's new publication, Leadership in the Information Age, written by Malcolm Getz, director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.)*

The General Library Building opened as the Joint University Libraries in 1941. It was built with significant support from the General Education Board and the Carnegie Corporation and reflected the visions of Chancellors Kirkland and Carmichael. We have recently renovated important spaces in the building, but more needs to be done.

A major project to renovate the mechanical systems in the General Library Building was completed recently. We have opened a building a mile from campus as an annex to house older, less used material at lower cost than could be provided on campus. Further renovation of the General Library Building with spaces for Central Library, Divinity Library, Technical Services, and Special Collections will prolong the life of the structure and enhance the Library's ability to serve students and faculty.

The Education Library stands largely as it was when it opened in 1919 with the support of the Carnegie Corporation. A major modernization of this historic building will allow it to

to continue to serve for decades to come.

The Medical Center Library has outgrown its space. Moreover, it has now become geographically removed from most of its clientele. A new building at the heart of the Medical Center is essential to its mission. New space must accommodate the emerging electronic technologies for managing and accessing information.

As Blair's student body and faculty grow, an expansion of the Wilson Music Library will be necessary to accommodate the collection and student reading, listening, and viewing stations. In addition, an expanded facility for the Television News Archive is critical to allow its continued operation. The Alyne Queener Massey Law Library also requires added space for study and new electronic systems for managing legal information.

Special Collections holds our collections of rare books, unique manuscripts, and the archival materials that depict Vanderbilt's history. As the nature of our collecting changes, and larger contemporary collections are acquired, our requirements for space in Special Collections will grow. We must house the archival material and provide appropriate space for its use.



Enjoying the evening are Helen Rooney Tanner, left, May and Herb Shayne, and Ann Rowe.

## Lee Smith delights November gathering

Over the years, noted writers such as Lamar Alexander, Bobbie Ann Mason, Eudora Welty, and Richard Marius have keynoted the Friends of the Library annual dinner. This year's speaker, Lee Smith, attracted more than 160 members and their guests—an attendance record. The seventeenth annual gathering took place in November at the University Club.

Smith regaled the audience with anecdotes illustrating how she develops her characters and stories. Noting that more than 80 percent of all first novels are written in the first person, Smith called fiction "autobiography dressed up in funny clothes." She admitted that she tired of herself as a model after her second novel. "Now," she says, "I do not really take characters from life, because it is much more fun to make things up."

Several anecdotes stemmed from her days as a journalist at a small Alabama newspaper. These included photographing a dead albino squirrel and judging a majorette competition. Such events—so significant in a small town—coupled with her lively imagination, inspired her to create some remarkable characters. As she read selected passages from novels and short stories written at different stages of her

career, the Appalachian flavor of her characters, the earthy, everyday problems, the coming-of-age struggles, and the Southern accent were apparent.

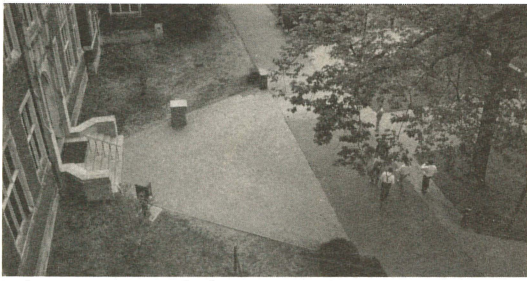
"Writing," Smith said, "is a means of self-exploration and an attempt to understand others." The voices of her characters ranged from adolescent girls in the 1950s, to teenage boys of the eighties, to families in the coal country just after the turn of the century. Fiction, she said, gives her an opportunity to "try on another skin, to explore new situations."

Throughout the evening, Smith delighted the audience with her candor. Snippets from her writings filled the room with personalities as diverse as the majorette auditioning in *Fancy Strut*, to the prepubescent Susan playing chewing games with her Post Toasties cereal in *The Last Day the Dogbushes Bloomed*. She concluded her talk by confessing that, in the novel *Fair and Tender Ladies*, she set Ivy Rowe's birthday in 1900 so she "could do the math...whatever year it was, I would know how old she was."

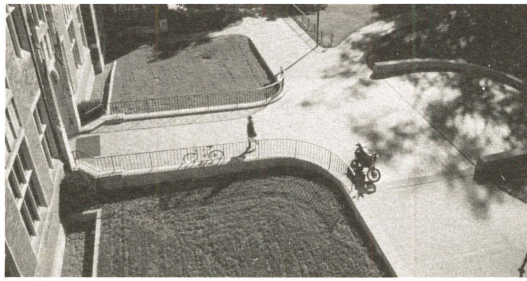
Whether semi-biographical or completely "made up," Lee Smith's fiction provided an evening full of humor and poignancy.



Author Lee Smith autographs books for Bonnie Buckner, Ron Watson, and Anne Brown at the Friends annual dinner.



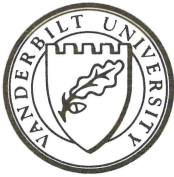
Library entrance before renovation



After

## Library Lawn renovated

Renovation of Library Lawn began shortly after commencement in May 1990. The existing steps and retaining walls were replaced with a sloping terrace, which provides easy access for physically challenged patrons. Although landscaping of the remainder of the lawn continued into September, the new Library entrance was ready when students returned for the fall semester.



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## Friends, Indeed!

I/we wish to become a member of the Friends of the Library as indicated below:

- Student \$ 5 annually
- Contributing \$ 25 annually
- Sustaining \$ 100 annually
- Patron \$ 200 annually
- Benefactor \$ 500 annually
- Heard Society \$1,000 annually

Contributions of \$100 or more may be restricted to the collection of your choice. All contributions are tax deductible.

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The Jean and Alexander Heard Library  
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My/our check for \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Friends of the Library, is enclosed.

## Friends of the Library

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