

Chronicle

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Noted writer and alumna Elizabeth Dewberry to speak at Friends dinner



Elizabeth Dewberry

Friends of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library will have the pleasure of hearing Vanderbilt alumna and acclaimed writer, Elizabeth Dewberry, BS'83, at the annual membership dinner, Thursday, October 12. Invitations will be mailed in mid-September. Dewberry's appearance will immediately precede the Southern Festival of Books, October 13-15 in Nashville.

The author of two novels, two plays, and numerous articles and reviews – most of which were

originally published under the name Elizabeth Dewberry Vaughn – she has been called “an absolute original” by fellow novelist Pat Conroy.

Her first novel, *Many Things Have Happened Since He Died*, was published by Doubleday in 1990 and reprinted by Vintage Contemporaries in 1992. She co-adapted it for the stage with Tom Key, who directed its premiere at the Horizon Theater in Atlanta in 1994. It garnered individual artist grants for her from the Georgia and Alabama State Arts Councils.

In reviewing *Many Things* for *Library Journal*, Christine Stenstrom termed it a “striking” first novel and recommended it “for all fiction collections.”

“She is a writer worth watching,” Stenstrom said.

Another review in *Booklist* commended Dewberry for her “quirky style” that puts “a new spin on an old subject,” a woman trapped in an abusive marriage.

Her second novel, *Break the Heart of Me*, published by Nan A. Talese/Doubleday in 1994, was a Literary Guild alternate selection.

In speaking about *Break the Heart of Me*, Dewberry characterized the novel as “a story about a woman whose memories...force her to rethink all her relationships with men, past and present. It’s a story about having your heart broken, but also a story about putting yourself back together.”

Screenwriter Susan Isaacs, who reviewed *Break the Heart* for the *Los Angeles Times*, called the book “an impressive work of fiction.”

“With amazing grace,” she said, Dewberry’s story “engages the mind – even as its narrator captivates the heart.”

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Library leaders gather for dinner in June

The second annual Library Leadership Dinner in June featured testimonials from three great admirers of the Heard Library. Walter T. Durham, BA'48, MA'56, retiring chair of the Heard Library Society, introduced Drs. Harris D. "Pete" Riley Jr. and Richard J. Davis and also talked about his own appreciation of the Library.

"Libraries have always held a compelling fascination for me," Durham said. "Whether facing the twin stone lions that guard the entrance to the New York City Public Library on Fifth Avenue or self-consciously entering the one-room, no phone, no rest room, log library at Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, the experience has been unfailingly one of excitement and discovery.

"The longest relationship that I have enjoyed with a single library is on-going," he continued. "It is here on this campus: the Jean and Alexander Heard Library." That relationship has continued through the years as he used its research capabilities to work, first, on a master's degree in political science and, later, to write several books and many articles on Tennessee and regional history.



Heard Library supporters Dr. William J. Darby, left, Albert Werthan, and Dr. Frederic E. Cowden, BA'39, MD'42, mingle at the Leadership Dinner.

Durham noted that another long-term relationship – with Anna Coile Durham, BA'49, his wife of forty-nine years – developed at the Heard Library.

"The Library became our place of rendezvous," Durham said, as it has for countless other Vanderbilt students. "It was where we met," he continued, "and, believe it or not, it was where we studied."

Durham expressed appreciation to everyone present "for what you have done to sustain and support the Jean and Alexander Heard Library."

Richard Davis, who earned an M.D. at Vanderbilt in 1973 and an M.B.A. from the Owen Graduate School of Management in 1987, described himself as "an information junkie" and lover of libraries. As a result of his work at the Owen School and its Walker Management Library, he and a group of former Owen Executive MBA students have developed a business plan for a concept called First Opinion. They hope it will "automate the practice of medicine worldwide, via an expert computer system," which can be accessed by the telephone.

Davis paid tribute to the biomedical and management libraries and their staffs, who "have always been there for me – just for the asking – to help, assist, and hold my hand on occasion when needed. As world class libraries, they have assisted me in solving the complexities of many worlds...technology, medicine, and the business necessary to develop a concept and dream into reality."



Jean Heard visits with Sara Rodes, BA'22, left.

Giving library testimonials were, left to right, Walter Durham, Pete Riley, and Richard Davis.



Marice Wolfe, left, Peabody MLS'77, University archivist and head of Special Collections, chats with Sally Howell, BA'52, MA'67, and Anne Hartree, BA'46, MS'49.

A graduate of both the College of Arts and Science and the Medical School, Pete Riley, BA'45, MD'48, is professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and a former president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association. He has spent his professional life as a pediatrician both in Oklahoma and Tennessee. Riley gave the Vanderbilt libraries a great deal of credit for his success, noting the care and interest of librarians who had helped him, both in his student days and since.

"As my friend Walter (Durham) has said, 'At the heart of every great university there is a great library,'" he concluded.



Friesinger takes helm of Heard Library Society

Pictured, left to right, are Alexander McLeod and his wife, Dotsie, and Janet and Bud Friesinger, the new chair of the Heard Library Society.

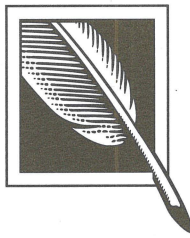
Dr. Gottlieb C. "Bud" Friesinger II is the new chair of the Heard Library Society for a two-year term, succeeding Walter Durham. Professor of Medicine and Betty and Jack Bailey Professor of Cardiology at Vanderbilt University Medical School, Friesinger is the former director of the Division of Cardiology at Vanderbilt University Hospital. He has been named one of the best cardiologists in the United States by both *Good Housekeeping* and *Town and Country* magazines.

"It is a real privilege and honor to follow

Walter," Friesinger said. "He has provided us with superb leadership."

With the assistance of Shirley Hallblade, acting director of the Library, and Peggy Culp, Peabody MED'86, Library development officer, Friesinger plans to work with the society's steering committee "to develop achievable but challenging goals" for the organization.

The Heard Library Society's members are those who give \$1,000 or more annually to any Library fund.



Friends name new board members

At the January membership dinner, Friends President Jim Auer thanked retiring members of the Board of Directors, Martha Donnelly, BA'54, Jacque Voegeli, and Reba Wilcoxon, PhD'71. Replacing them on the board are Robert C. Arnett, BE'57, vice president and general manager of the Manufacturing Division of Toshiba American Consumer Products in Lebanon, Tennessee; Mary Hoffschwelle, PhD'93, assistant professor of U. S. women's and social history at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and Dr. Alexander McLeod, MBA'88, an internist in private practice with the Frist Clinic in Nashville and staff physician with Vanderbilt's Zerfoss Student Health Service. Betsy McNamara Wills, BA'89, a Nashville community leader formerly with the Vanderbilt Reunion Office, was selected to serve the remainder of the term of Judy Quinn, a board member who died in 1994.

Joint book drive huge success

The Edgehill Center has over 900 more children's books, thanks to a book drive sponsored by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, the Heard Library Society, and the Vanderbilt women's basketball team.

A children's book was the entry fee for two women's basketball home games during the 1994-95 season – the Commodores vs. Towson State and the Commodores vs. Nicholls State – and all books collected went to the Edgehill Center. The effort was promoted city-wide on the radio, through the newspaper sports pages, and by mail, with alumni on mailing lists for the Library and the Nashville Vanderbilt Club receiving flyers about the promotion.

The books are being used in the reading areas of each of the classrooms in the center, both those used by pre-school children and by children in the center's after-school programs, said Cathy Roberts, director of community services at the Edgehill Center. Members of the women's basketball team and Coach Jim Foster often can be found taking part in the center's activities.

Walter Durham, former chair of the Heard Library Society and a Vanderbilt graduate, said that when Coach Foster spoke to the society late last year about his love of books and about this project, "there was immediate interest in helping."

"The athletic program and the Library together need to do everything we can to encourage increased interest in the development of future student athletes," Durham stated. "It's a perfect match."



Vanderbilt women's basketball coach, Jim Foster, right, team members, and Shirley Hallblade, acting director of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, standing center, shared the fruits of their recent book drive with youngsters at the Edgehill Center.

Exhibits feature music, Colombiana, Twain

Special Collections of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library has exhibited materials from recent acquisitions during the past twelve months.

In May the Library honored Louis Thurston Nicholas, "Nashville's unofficial dean of music," with a reception and an exhibit drawn from his correspondence, other papers, and a collection of historic concert programs recently donated to the University archives. Titled "A Half-Century of Music in Nashville," the exhibit celebrated Nicholas's contributions to Nashville's musical life.

Professor of music, emeritus, Nicholas taught voice at Peabody College for thirty-six years. He was also the *Tennessean's* music critic for many years.

Last winter, the Library featured "Mark Twain Illustrated," an exhibit of 100 images from the



Charlie Bailey, left, Ronald Kantor, and Allison Moore enjoy the Twain exhibit. Kantor produced a video based on the collection, which was shown at the exhibit.

Marc H. Hollender Mark Twain Collection: The collection is one of four given to the Library by Hollender, professor of psychiatry, emeritus. The others include a collection of World War II maps, the Owen Wister Collection, and 130 books written by Charles King, a popular U.S. Army novelist of the nineteenth century. The exhibit was held in the Special Collections Gallery in the General Library building.

Left: Dr. Marc Hollender inspects samples of his Mark Twain collection.



Right: Over the years, Dr. J. Leon Helguera, professor of history, emeritus, has helped to build the Jean and Alexander Heard Library's outstanding Latin American collection with rare books and imprints from his private collection of Colombiana. An expert on Colombian history, Helguera is shown here with an exhibit of his most recent gifts. Titled "The Fruits of Bibliomania" – a word meaning "extreme preoccupation with collecting books" – the exhibit was held at the Central Library last winter.



Warren family legacy continues



Professor Ann Cook, PhD'72, left, vice president of programs, and Rosanna Warren chat at the Friends dinner.

Distinguished poet Rosanna Warren spoke on "Translation and Poetry" at the twenty-first annual Friends of the Library membership dinner held in January.

Warren explained the issues and sensitivities involved in translating poetry from one language to another. As part of her presentation, she read aloud poems in Latin and in French, followed by their English translations.

The daughter of the famed Fugitive poet, the late Robert Penn Warren, BA'25, and novelist

Eleanor Clark, Warren was an assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt in 1981. Since 1982 she has been on the faculty of Boston University. Her works have appeared in twenty-seven journals, and she is the author of three poetry volumes.

In conjunction with her address to the Friends, Special Collections of the Library held an exhibit titled "A Warren Family Album," 100 photographs of Robert Penn Warren and his family, along with materials from a collection of his papers, which are housed in the Heard Library. Robert Penn Warren's son, Gabriel, a photographer, furnished several photos for the exhibit, adding to those that already were among the holdings of Special Collections.



Harriet Owsley, A'22, Peabody BS'25, left, and other Friends of the Library queue up to meet Rosanna Warren.



Jim Auer, left, president of the Friends of the Library, talks with Virgil LeQuire, MD'46, professor of medicine, emeritus.



Warren autographs books for Betty Herbert.

A preview of Special Collections exhibits

Special Collections has planned a series of interesting exhibits from now until the end of 1996, according to Marice Wolfe, head of the division.

Now to Mid-October 1995

V-J Day: Fifty Years Later. Commemorates the war's end with documents from the collections of the Joint University Libraries, (which was dedicated two days before Pearl Harbor was attacked) and the collections of Walter Durham, Marc H. Hollender, Delbert Mann, Francis Robinson, Joe Thompson Jr., and John Thompson.

November-December

Highlights of Special Collections. Features items from the broad collecting areas of the department: archives, manuscripts, photographs, rare books, and subject collections on the Fugitives and Agrarians, and Southern Civilization.

Following is a tentative schedule for 1996. The exhibits will explore the theme, *A Bicentennial Journey on the Rivers of Tennessee.*

January-March 1996

Revisiting the Tennessee Centennial, with original publications of the event, the flavor of Alfred Leland Crabb's fiction, and memorabilia from the papers of William Lofland Dudley, who served as the Centennial's director of affairs.

April-June

Exploring the Rivers of Tennessee, as documented in the earliest cartographic records of the territory, with illustrations from the Robert A. McGaw Tennessee Map Collection.

July-September

Focusing on the Rivers of America Series, particularly the rivers of Tennessee—the Cumberland, Holston, French Broad, and Tennessee—in story and song.

October-December

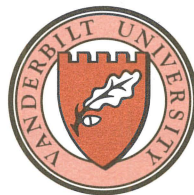
Rediscovering Donald Davidson's two-volume masterpiece, *The Tennessee.* Called "the story of a culture" as much as a history of the river, the narrative runs from the myths of the Cherokee through the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Dewberry...

Dewberry earned a Ph.D. in twentieth-century American literature from Emory University in 1989. She has taught creative writing and American literature at Emory, the University of the South, Ohio State University, the University of Southern California, Samford University, and at the Bread Loaf, Wesleyan, and Sewanee Writers' Conferences.

She has published several articles on Hemingway and other non-fiction and was a regular reviewer of novels for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1990 and '91. Her first short play, *Head On*, was commissioned by the Actors' Theatre of Louisville for the 1995 Humana Festival of New Plays and produced there in March 1995. She has also written a commissioned full-length play, *Baggage*, for the 1996 Humana Festival, and she is working on a new novel, *Touch Me, Touch Only Me*. While a student at Vanderbilt, she received the ASCAP Song Writing Scholarship.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Dewberry lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana, with her husband, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler (*A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*).



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President: James E. Auer

Acting Director of the Library: Shirley Hallblade

Director of Development: Peggy Culp

Editor: Joanne Lamphere Beckham, BA'62

Designer: Donna DeVore Pritchett, University Design

Photographs: Denny Adcock, Peyton Hoge, Deborah Thornhill

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