Roy Blount Jr. to Speak at Dinner

"The great curmudgeon of our time" comes to the UNCG campus March 4, 2004

Nationally known humorist and author Roy Blount Jr. will be the featured speaker at the 2004 UNCG Friends of the Library Annual Dinner scheduled for March 4 in Cone Ballroom of Elliott University Center. His topic will be “I Lost It at the Library,” and tickets will go on sale this December.

His 17th book, a biography of Robert E. Lee, was published in May 2003. The first of his books was named one of the 10 best sports books ever by Jonathan Yardley of The Washington Post. Norman Mailer said of his second, “Page for page, Roy Blount is as funny as anyone I’ve read in a long time,” and Time placed Blount “in the tradition of the great curmudgeons like H.L. Mencken and W.C. Fields.” Garrison Keillor said in The Paris Review, “Blount is the best. He can be literate, uncouth, and soulful all in one sentence.”

He has been named a Literary Lion by the New York Public Library, a Literary Light by the Boston Public Library, and is a usage consultant to The American Heritage Dictionary. His one-man show at the American Place Theatre was described by The New Yorker as “the most humorous and engaging fifty minutes in town.” A regular panelist on NPR’s Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me, he has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion frequently and on numerous national TV talk and comedy shows.


“Southerners think words are like people. Peculiar people. Mix a bunch of them together and you can’t tell what might happen.” — Roy Blount Jr.

THAT’S THE TICKET
Ticket sales for the annual Friends of the Library Dinner and Roy Blount Jr.’s appearance there will go on sale in December.
Two children of former North Carolina First Lady Martha Blakeney Hodges — the first chairperson of the Friends of the Library — have pledged the largest gift ever to Jackson Library. The $1 million pledge will endow the Special Collections and University Archives, allowing the library to expand and preserve its collections; undertake special projects, such as gathering oral histories; and provide greater access to scholars by converting more books and documents to digital formats.

The department housing the thousands of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials will now be known as the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives.

Martha Blakeney graduated from the State Normal and Industrial College, now UNCG, in 1918. She married Luther Hodges, who became governor and served in the cabinet of President John F. Kennedy, and she was the first chairperson of the Friends of the Library. She died in 1969.

Two couples—Cheray and Luther Hodges Jr. of Chapel Hill and Donald and Betsy Hodges Bernard of Durham—each pledged $500,000 for the gift. Luther Hodges Jr. and Betsy Hodges Bernard are children of the former governor and first lady. Chancellor Patricia Sullivan announced the gift at the annual Friends of the Library Dinner in March. “This is the most generous gift ever made to Jackson Library, and it recognizes one of the great first ladies of North Carolina,” Sullivan said. “Martha Blakeney Hodges’ children loved her dearly, and they are honoring her memory with a fitting tribute that will support our library as an important scholarly resource for many years to come.”

After graduating from the State Normal and Industrial College, Martha Blakeney, a native of Monroe, taught at Leaksville High School and served as chairperson of the history department at Greensboro High School. She married Luther Hodges, a young textile executive with the department store Marshall Field and Company, and returned to Leaksville in 1922. During the Depression, she helped teach the children of the town’s mill families.

With the support of his wife, Hodges became vice president of Marshall Field’s and general manager of its manufacturing division. Together they raised three children. Luther Hodges was elected lieutenant governor in 1952 and became governor two years later when Gov. William B. Umstead died. Hodges was elected to a full term in 1956.

As first lady, Martha Blakeney Hodges supervised the redecoration of the Governor’s Mansion and the care of its grounds. Reserved and shy of publicity, she was an advocate for literacy throughout the state and helped to rehabilitate the inmates who worked at the mansion.

“My mother was truly the unsung hero of my father’s success. She was the source of the grace and dignity that characterized his administration,” said Luther Hodges Jr. “Our tribute to her at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and particularly the library she loved so much, is only appropriate and indeed somewhat overdue.”

—Dan Nonte, University News Service
Chappell Interview Transcripts
Donated to University Archives

Friends of the Library board member Lee Kinard has made and given to the UNCG Archives transcripts of his Good Morning Show television program interviews with Fred Chappell, Burlington Industries Professor of English and longtime teacher in the University’s writing program. Kinard, the former executive producer and host of The Good Morning Show, a former chairperson of Friends of the Library, created the transcripts from videotapes he donated to the Archives to supplement others given some years ago. The interviews cover the period 1987-1997, beginning with a multi-part interview conducted at the time of the publication of The Fred Chappell Reader and concluding with an interview aired at the time of the publication of Spring Garden: New and Selected Poems.

“Fred Chappell’s work has been so important, I thought it would be good to have transcripts of our interviews available for researchers.”
— Lee Kinard

The transcripts, available in both paper and electronic form, will be housed in the University Archives. University Archivist Betty Carter notes that use of oral history and other audiovisual resources is significantly enhanced when a written transcript is available.

EMPLOYEE GIFTS TO JACKSON LIBRARY

In addition to UNCG alumni and friends, Jackson Library is the beneficiary of continuing gifts from a number of its own faculty and staff. Three of the most notable for the number and quality of their gifts are Mark Schumacher, Paul Hessling, and John Overly.

In the span of approximately nine years, Schumacher has given some 500 volumes to the library in memory of his mother, Dorothy Schumacher. These have been mainly titles for our Girls’ Books in Series Collection, but also a number of titles for the Charles Adams American Trade Binding Collection. He has made his purchases from bookstores across the country and from the Internet.

Paul Hessling has given several hundred books to the Trade Binding Collection. He has especially sought out books with signed bindings, preferably by women binders.

John Overly also has given a many number of books over the years in honor of his mother Lucille Overly.

As with other gifts, Special Collections puts bookplates in these gift books, denoting the giver and the honoree. We invite everyone to join Mark, Paul, and John in this tradition of sustained support for Jackson Library.

— Bill Finley
Special Collections Librarian
B ooks and discussion leaders have been selected for the second annual Friends of Jackson Library Book Discussion Group series. Last year’s group discussions proved to be extremely popular, and the new lineup is certain to appeal to a large audience. This year’s theme, “Different Lives,” will explore authors and texts that portray opposing conventions within the author’s life or the lives and actions of the characters. Admission is free, but seating is limited to 35 people per event. Friends of the Library members who preregister have priority, so make sure to sign up. Call 336-256-0112 to reserve your space, or register online at: http://library.uncg.edu/fol/register. All sessions will be held in the Special Collections room of Jackson Library.

A UNCG faculty or Friends of the Library member will lead each discussion meeting. Additionally, Board of Directors members Beth Sheffield and Ann Russ will pose several questions to engage us. These questions will serve to stimulate conversation, but we anticipate that the dynamics of our discussion will come from the questions members bring to the group.

A Long Fatal Love Chase
*by* Louisa May Alcott
7:15 p.m., Monday, September 15, 2003
Considered “too sensational” to be published in Alcott’s lifetime, this recently discovered and widely praised tale of love and obsession offers readers a new appreciation of a remarkable writer. Discussion leader will be Hephzibah Roskelly, professor of English, who will provide insight into the author’s life and explore many aspects of this novel.

Twelfth Night
*by* William Shakespeare
7 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2003
This 1660s comedy employs mistaken identity, separated twins, and gender disguises in its plot. The selection is a comedic companion to UNCG’s Fall Theatre offering of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which will be performed at UNCG October 24-26 and October 29-November 2. Discussion leader Russ McDonald, professor of English, will delight us with a discussion of a Shakespearean classic.

Cold Mountain
*by* Charles Frazier
7 p.m. Monday, November 24, 2003
Emeritus Professor of History Allen Trelease will lead discussion of this American odyssey that weaves the stories of two people trying to survive the illusions of love and the loss of certainties in a country torn apart by the travails of war. This book leads us to ponder the impact of change in every facet of life. Our discussion will precede the December release of the movie based on the book.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
*by* Harriett Jacobs
7 p.m., Monday, January 26, 2004
Professor of History Loren Schweninger will lead our discussion of this moving 1861 autobiography of a slave. Providing insights and anecdotes from his own research about slavery and its consequences, Dr. Schweninger will help us salute Black History Month.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
*by* Robert Louis Stevenson
(by “William Wilson” *by* Edgar Allen Poe)
7 p.m., Monday, February 16, 2004
Bill Finley, Special Collections Librarian of Jackson Library, will take us through Stevenson’s timeless psychological thriller. Participants are encouraged to read Edgar Allan Poe’s short story, “William Wilson,” which provided the inspiration for Stevenson’s novel.

Catch Me If You Can
*by* Stan Redding and Frank Abagnale
7 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2004
Michael Frierson, associate professor of Broadcasting and Cinema, unravels the tale of one of the most daring con men, forgers, impostors, and escape artists in history. We will follow the escapades and trail of deceit of this infamous man whose life was made into a recent motion picture.
Illiteracy and lack of education are barriers to women and people of color worldwide, while literacy and education are springboards to opportunity...

So begins the mission statement of this year’s Race and Gender Institute, sponsored by Jackson Library. The theme for the series will be “Barriers to Learning: Issues in Literacy and Education from a Race and Gender Perspective.” In collaboration with other UNCG departments, the Library is scheduling programs for the fall and spring semesters. Dr. Julius Chambers will speak on October 29 in the EUC Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. in commemoration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that led to the integration of America’s public schools. Chambers earned his bachelor’s degree from North Carolina Central University and law degrees from UNC Chapel Hill and Columbia University. After founding the state’s first integrated law firm, he shaped civil rights law by winning landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including the desegregation of Charlotte’s schools. Chambers is a former Chancellor at NCCU and led the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund for nine years. He now practices law in Charlotte. The Neo-Black Society Choir has been invited to perform. The program will be free and open to the public.

Author and activist Jonathan Kozol will speak on April 20. After being fired from his teaching job in 1967 for reading a Langston Hughes poem to his students, Kozol wrote *Death at an Early Age*, which put urban schools on America’s political agenda. He has since tackled illiteracy, homelessness, and educational equality, earning the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award and the Conscience in Media Award. He has written a number of books and is an eloquent spokesperson for the disenfranchised. His presentation is also free and open to the public.

**For More Information**
Contact Special Projects Librarian Barry Miller at 336-256-0112 or by email at barry_miller@uncg.edu.

**Allen Trelease’s History of UNCG to be Published This Fall**
Emeritus Professor of History Dr. Allen W. Trelease has spent much of the past several years in the University Archives here at Jackson Library, studying the history of the institution chartered in 1891 to provide higher education for women. The result of that labor of love is *Making North Carolina Literate: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, from Normal School to Metropolitan University*, being published in October by Carolina Academic Press. The date and location of a reception and book signing to commemorate the publication will be announced soon. The Friends of the Library and the Alumni Association are cosponsoring the event.
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The Swann Family
Dr. Allen Trelease
Mr. John Ulmschneider
Evan and Margaret Wade
Ms. Faith Whittlesey
Mr. and Mrs. David Worth
Ms. Katherine Ziff

THANK YOU!

In the spring of 2002, the Board of Directors of the UNCG Friends of the Library initiated a campaign to increase Friends membership. Thanks to these efforts, membership currently stands at 531 for 2003. This represents a 39 percent increase over 2002, but it’s not enough. As you may know, financial support from the state has been significantly reduced, jeopardizing the vitality of Jackson Library, the Triad’s largest library and one of Greensboro’s most precious resources.

I wish to personally thank you for your support. Your membership dues have helped to augment budget shortfalls, but I hope you won’t stop there. As is evident in this newsletter, membership benefits go far beyond borrowing privileges. Please consider increasing your level of financial support at your next renewal, and please … please … urge your friends to join also. And don’t forget that Friends of the Library also gratefully accepts corporate memberships.

John May
Co-Chair
Friends of the Library
What can UNCG’s Friends of the Library do for you?

- Check-out privileges from a collection of more than 1 million volumes.
- Access within the Library to a vast collection of electronic databases as well as a highly professional and resourceful library faculty and staff.
- Exclusive membership in the UNCG Friends of the Library Book Discussion Group offering intimate discussions with acclaimed writers.
- The availability of gift memberships and honorary or memorial donations. You can show your loved ones you care and support vital university services and resources.

To learn more, email Barry Miller at barry_miller@uncg.edu or call 336-256-0112.

- GIFTS -

Please fill out only if you wish to make a donation other than or in addition to a Friends of the Library membership.

- Non-membership donation $ ____________
- Memorial donation
  - Name ____________________________
  - $ ______________________________
- In honor of
  - Name ____________________________
  - $ ______________________________

Notify
- Name ____________________________
- Address __________________________

Donor
- Name ____________________________
- Address __________________________

- MEMBERSHIP -

Friends of the Library • The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Enclosed is $ ________ for membership in the Friends of the Library, UNCG (Checks payable to Friends of the Library.) I prefer to pay using Visa/Mastercard.

Card # ____________________________ Exp. date ____________

Membership Categories:
- Jackson Society ...... $1,000
- Benefactor ........... $250
- Patron ............... $100
- Associate ............ $50
- Member .............. $25
- Corporate Tower Club . . $500
- Corporate ............ $100

- I work for a company with a matching gifts program. My matching gift is enclosed.

- I would like to receive news and information about Jackson Library by email.

Send to UNCG Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, N.C. 27402.
11 Reasons for Pay-for-Print in Jackson Library

Questions from the public about why they must purchase a card and pay for printing from Library computers have arisen. The circumstances behind this decision are described in brief.

1. Student fees help underwrite the costs for the campus’ computer labs, including the costs of paper and toner for printing.
2. These fees are no longer adequate to cover the skyrocketing costs of printing, resulting in a campus-wide decision to implement a cost-recovery charge of six cents per double-sided page.
3. Jackson Library does not receive any support from student fees.
4. For years, the Library has been able to offset some of the costs of printing from photocopy receipts.
5. As the amount of photocopying has plummeted, these funds have decreased dramatically to the point that they barely cover the costs of leasing the copiers.
6. Students will pay the same cost to print from Library computers as they pay to print in the computer labs.
7. Because members of the public do not have the University IDs that can be debited to pay for printing at public PCs in the Library, they will need to purchase E-cash cards made available through the UNCG First Card Center.
8. The one-time cost of this card is $5 and set by the First Card Center, not the Library.
9. The cards are available at an E-cash dispensing machine in the Library provided by the First Card Center.
10. Members of the public may add monetary value to these cards in increments of $1, $5, and $10. The E-cash cards may also be used for purchases at other campus venues such as the UNCG Bookstore and campus dining facilities.
11. Those whose searches of databases produce extensive results may choose to download the results or email themselves the results to avoid paying the printing charges.

For general information, Jackson Library is among the last of the UNC institutions to begin charging for printing.

Friends Seek Corporate Memberships!

Over the years, UNCG’s Jackson Library has benefited greatly from the memberships of area companies and corporations in Friends of the Library. Whether it’s a small company or a national corporation, these members show a keen appreciation of the vitally important role that UNCG and Jackson Library play in the intellectual life of our community and among the current and future workforce.

In these economically challenging times, corporate memberships are more important than ever. Please take a moment to consider having your company or corporation sign on as a Corporate Friend ($100 per year) or a Tower Club member ($500 per year). Contact Barry Miller at 336-256-0112 or barry_miller@uncg.edu.

Walter Clinton Jackson Library
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, N.C. 27402-6170