New Fund Supports Women Veterans Historical Project at UNCG

Ms. Ann Fisher of Hendersonville, NC has established The Audrey Ann Fisher Women Veterans Historical Project Oral History and Program Fund at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her gift will support the collections and ongoing educational programming of the project.

Fisher enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps in 1946. During her career she served in Korea and Vietnam, among other posts. She was assigned to work in the Pentagon in 1967, and retired as a Commander from Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, VA. She received a bachelor’s degree from Park College in Missouri in 1965. Her papers and oral history interview are included in the Betty Carter Women Veterans Historical Project in the University Libraries at UNC Greensboro.

Spartan Stories Feature Tales from UNCG's Archives

Welcome to Spartan Stories! Here, staff of the University Archives at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will share tales from the long history of our institution. From its founding in 1891 as a publicly-funded school for women’s higher education to its current standing as a learner-centered public research university, UNCG has a unique history filled with interesting stories. On this blog, we look to share these stories with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others who wish to learn more about how our university became - and, in many ways, has always been - a source of innovation and leadership within North Carolina and beyond. Join us every Monday morning (beginning October 1, 2012) as we tell a new Spartan Story. You can subscribe to the blog via RSS feed or email using the options on the right side of the screen. And please feel free to share links to the site with anyone you feel would be interested. We hope you will enjoy our glimpses from the past as much as we enjoy sharing them! See http://uncghistory.blogspot.com/

New Exhibit Traces History of Basketball at UNCG

Just in time for March Madness, the Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives presents "Spartan Evolution: A History of Basketball on the UNCG
Campus from the 1890s to Today.” This exhibit is housed next to the reference desk on the main level of Jackson Library, and will run through April. Featuring images ranging from the women of the Athletic Association in 1900 to current head coaches Wes Miller and Wendy Palmer, this exhibit highlights key events and people in the development of intramural and intercollegiate basketball on campus.

An online exhibit also features a number of images used in the exhibit: http://library.uncg.edu/collection/exhibits/History_of_Basketball_at_UNCG.aspx.

And, stay tuned to Spartan Stories! The March 4th post at http://uncghistory.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-birth-of-spartans.html will also delve deeper into UNCG basketball history.

Char Booth to Speak About Libraries in Crisis at University Libraries/LIS Lecture Series

Spring 2013 Speaker: Char Booth, Instruction Services Manager & E-Learning Librarian at the Claremont Colleges Library

“Quixotic Ferocity: Confronting the Library Crisis Narrative”
Thursday, March 7, 1:30-3:00 pm
School of Education Building Room 120

In this talk, Char Booth takes on the ever-present "Libraries in Crisis" narrative. As she describes in a recent blog post, "Quixotic ferocity (i.e., idealistic determination, visionary stubbornness) is the impulse that has long motivated the unarguably daunting work of organizing/preserving cultural memory and facilitating its access, which is as given to change, deprioritization, and disaster as any greater good. It is also the quality that we most need to cultivate among those who are entering the field.”

Char Booth is the Instruction Services Manager & E-Learning Librarian at the Claremont Colleges Library and also serves as an ACRL Immersion faculty member. In her work she explores the integration of education, technology, and design in library services. Prior to her work at Claremont, she served as the E-Learning Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley. She began her career in librarianship as the Reference & Instruction Librarian and Communications Bibliographer at Ohio University Libraries. She holds a Masters of Education in Computer Education & Technology degree from Ohio University, a Masters of Science in Information Studies degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. in History from Reed College.

About The University Libraries/LIS Lecture Series:

The purpose of the University Libraries/LIS Lecture Series, inaugurated in 2005, is to bring lectures or seminars on topics that encourage dialogue about the issues, trends, and developments in librarianship and higher education to an audience of librarians, library staff and information studies students at UNC Greensboro. Topics are related to the Librarian and Information Science profession or the Libraries’ services and collections. The events are jointly funded by LIS and University Libraries.

A planning committee including representatives from the University Libraries and the Library and Information Studies Department plans these events. Kimberly Lutz is the current chairperson of the committee. Our thanks to Dean of University Libraries Rosann Bazirjian for initiating the formation of the committee.
Schleunes to Lead Discussion of In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin on March 18

Monday, March 18 at 7:00 pm: In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror & an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin by Erik Larson. Faculty Leader: Dr. Karl Schleunes, History. “As the events leading up to World War II go, Franklin Roosevelt’s 1933 appointment of a naïve history professor as ambassador to Germany — and the professor’s decision to take his adventurous adult daughter with him — rank pretty low in importance. But in these lives, Erik Larson, author of The Devil in the White City, finds a terrific storytelling vehicle, as William E. Dodd and his daughter, Martha, are initially taken with Adolf Hitler and his reinvigoration of Germany — and the professor’s decision to take his adventurous adult daughter with him — rank pretty low in importance. But in these lives, Erik Larson, author of The Devil in the White City, finds a terrific storytelling vehicle, as William E. Dodd and his daughter, Martha, are initially taken with Adolf Hitler and his reinvigoration of Germany, and then slowly come to realize that nothing would stop Hitler from waging war and seeking to wipe out Europe’s Jews.” (Los Angeles Times)

North Carolina Poet Laureate to Visit UNCG on March 20 at 4 pm

The state of North Carolina has a proud heritage of Poets Laureate, including two poets closely associated with UNC Greensboro, Fred Chappell and Kathryn Stripling Byer. So it is with special pleasure that the University Libraries and the Friends of the UNCG Libraries welcome Joseph Bathanti, who was named the new Poet Laureate on August 30, 2012. He will appear at the Hodges Reading Room in Jackson Library at 4 p.m. on March 20. Admission is free.

“Joseph Bathanti is an award-winning poet and novelist with a robust commitment to social causes. He first came to North Carolina to work in the VISTA program and has taught writing workshops in prisons for 35 years,” Governor Bev Perdue said in announcing the selection last fall. “As North Carolina’s new Poet Laureate he plans to work with veterans to share their stories through poetry — a valuable and generous project.” That project dovetails nicely with the Betty Carter Women Veterans Historical Project in the University Libraries at UNCG and provides yet another reason for his March 20 visit to the campus. Bathanti previously visited the campus in November to attend the annual luncheon held to recognize the women veterans represented in the collection, and looks forward to collaborating with the UNCG Libraries as he makes visits around the state in his post as Poet Laureate.

To meet Bathanti, see this video.

Bathanti is keenly aware of the importance of the position of Poet Laureate. Describing the importance of poetry, he begins by describing how it changed his own life. He says he instantly fell in love with the state when he first came to the state in 1976. Now, he says, he can’t imagine a better place to be a writer anywhere in the United States. Crediting the state’s Visiting Artists program as a wonderful training ground for his career, he is the author of They Changed the State: The Legacy of North Carolina’s Visiting Artists, 1971-1995, published by The North Carolina Arts Council in 2007. He describes the Visiting Artists experience in this video:

While he now completely identifies with his adopted state of North Carolina and is passionate about it, Bathanti was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. He is the author of four books of poetry: Communion Part-
ners; Anson County; The Feast of All Saints; and This Metal, which was nominated for The National Book Award. His first novel, East Liberty, winner of the Carolina Novel Award, was published in 2001. His latest novel, Coventry, won the 2006 Novello Literary Award. His collection of short stories, The High Heart, winner of the 2006 Spokane Prize, was published by Eastern Washington University Press in 2007. He is the recipient of a Literature Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council; The Samuel Talmadge Ragan Award, presented annually for outstanding contributions to the Fine Arts of North Carolina over an extended period; the Linda Flow- ers Prize; the Sherwood Anderson Award, the 2007 Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Prize; and others. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

Exhibit Examines Tragedies on Campus

Brick Dormitory after the fire, 1904

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives invites students, faculty, and researchers to learn more about the various tragic events that occurred on the campus of The State Normal and Industrial School (now UNCG) from its opening in 1892 to 1932 by viewing the recently installed exhibit “Tragedies on Campus: The Early Years, 1892-1932.” Using archival documents and photographs, the exhibit explores the fires in the Brick Dormitory, the Carnegie Library, and in the Curry Building. In addition, there is a focus on the typhoid epidemic of 1899 which killed 13 students and the sudden passing of founding President Charles Duncan McIver in 1906.

The archives also encourages you to learn more about these and other tragic events that happened throughout the university’s history by visiting our Research Guide, available at: http:// uncg.libguides.com/scua_campus_tragedies

This exhibit will be on display in the vertical display case between the EUC and the library from January 22, 2012 – April 10, 2013.

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives is open Monday through Friday, 9am until 5pm. For questions or comments, please contact the exhibit curator, Sean Mulligan at 336-334-5763 or at Sean_Mulligan@uncg.edu.