

Spring 2010

# Friends of the Library Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 1

Greenwood Library

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### Special points of interest:

- **Information Center Redesign: Phase Four**
- **An Evening With Judge Martin Clark**
- ***Alice in Wonderland* Collection**

Volume 4, Issue 1

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## Information Center Redesign: Phase Four

The fourth phase of the Information Center redesign is underway. We have continued our collaboration with interior architects at American Office (formerly Chasen's Business Interiors) to increase the number of user-centered learning spaces in the Information Center. Following the Herman Miller Company's ethos of designing "furnishings and related services that improve the human experience wherever people work, heal, learn, and live," we have implemented their product line throughout the Center.

We believe that our design fosters a full array of opportunities for individuals and small groups to engage in research, reflection and communication where learning continues outside the classroom.

Knowledgeable staff are available to assist students with their endeavors. In this



relaxed atmosphere, users are allowed to converse with each other, text and have food and beverages.

The transformation to a user-centered learning environment began under the leadership of Dr. Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library. When Dr. Barbour came to the Library in 2005, we had a linear "lab-like" environment with 48 computers. To begin the transformation, we competed for and were awarded a \$60,000 grant from

a foundation that chooses to remain anonymous.

Because the initial implementation was so successful, Barbour has procured funding to continue the incremental expansion of learning spaces. We have charted the use of the area; its use has increased by 41% from 2005 to 2009. The final phase of our redesign is represented in the illustration on page three.

When the final phase is completed, we will have seventy-six learning spaces and five



## Alice in Wonderland Collection

In 1999 Longwood received a substantial book and memorabilia collection related to Lewis Carroll's classic work, *Alice in Wonderland*, from the estate of the late Carol S. Droessler, a 1950 Longwood graduate, and her husband, Dr. Earl Droessler of Raleigh, North Carolina. The collection includes approximately 1,400 books and periodicals and Lewis Carroll collectibles ranging from paper dolls, paper-mache figures, and elaborate ceramic bookends to note cards, bookmarks, bookplates and commemorative stamps. It contains translations of *Alice in Wonderland* in more than a dozen languages, including Bulgarian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Russian, Italian, Farsi, Malay, Nepali, Thai and Vietnamese. The collection also

includes biographies and criticisms that focus on the life and works of Lewis Carroll and the real-life Alice.

The materials from this collection are located in the Special Collections Room, second floor of the Greenwood Library. Visitors are encouraged to stop by to view the unique titles of *Alice in Wonderland* and the other publications related to the life and work of Lewis Carroll. A sampling of materials from the Droessler Collection is featured in a display case located on the second floor landing. The collection is a unique one that is worthy of its location in the Special Collections Room of the Greenwood Library.

## An Evening With Judge Martin Clark



On November 13, 2009, the Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library hosted its fall event, featuring an evening with Judge Martin Clark. Judge Clark greeted guests during the social hour, provided an engaging presentation, and concluded the evening with a book signing.

During his presentation, Judge Clark recounted his many trials and tribulations in his effort to publish his first book. He reinforced the fact that many authors are not successful with the first submission of their manuscripts. Judge Clark stressed that one must never give up on his/her dreams. At the close of his presentation, the audience rewarded Clark with enthusiastic applause.

Longwood's Barnes & Noble provided three of Judge Clark's novels, *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*, *Plain Heathen Mischief* and *The Legal Limit*, for the book signing that followed the presentation. This memorable evening was enjoyed by all of the library's guests. The presentation may be viewed at <http://www.longwood.edu/library/friends/clark.htm>.



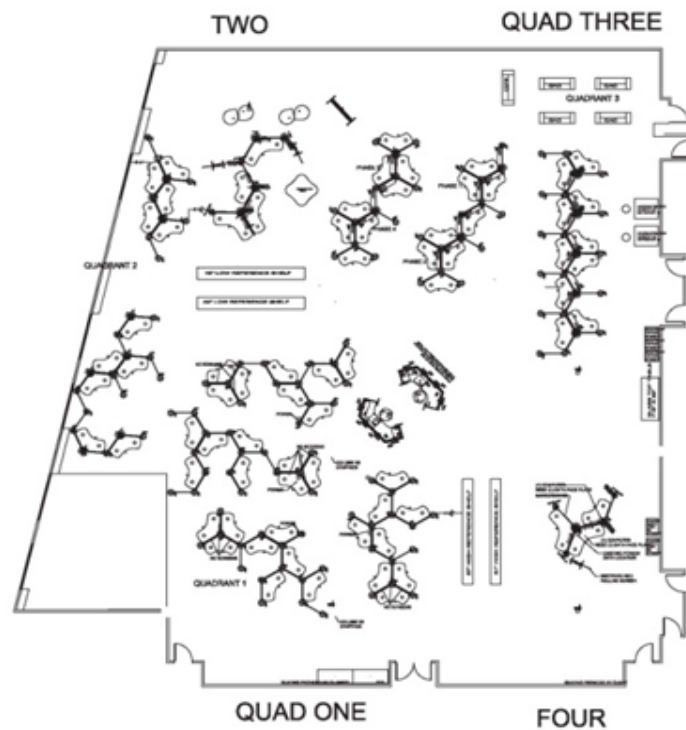


## Information Center Redesign (cont.)

“quick stations.” Our final workspace implementation will include a hybrid mix of library-owned desktop computers and lap-top ready workstations with large monitors and hard-wired Ethernet access. Several workspaces will have large and/or dual monitors providing shared display and collaboration space for small groups. Students may use their own laptops at these workstations or check out one of the Library’s circulating laptops. The Library has wireless capability for laptop use throughout the facility.

One of the more popular additions to the Center has been our whiteboard tables. Students meet around these “writable” tables and “spin” math problems, poetry and notes to each other as they collaborate to learn. Recently, there has been a heated debate regarding the role of the library in academia and society.

In Barbara Fister’s article, *The Battle of the Books—Again* (*Library Journal*, 11/19/2009), she cites a speech made by Umberto Eco (published in *Bostonia* magazine in 1993), in which he states, “The whole idea of a library is based on a misunderstanding: that a reader goes to the library to find a book whose title he knows... The essential function of a library is to discover books of whose existence the reader has no idea.” Fister adds that, “we might take comfort in the fact that while Umberto Eco argued for the serendipitous value of browsing, he also argued for comfortable chairs and a good cup of espresso.” At the Greenwood Library, we strive to provide an engaging environment in which the members of the Longwood community browse and discover information, physically or virtually, and reflect upon, produce, and share knowledge.



## Mark Your Calendars for the Friends Group Spring Event!

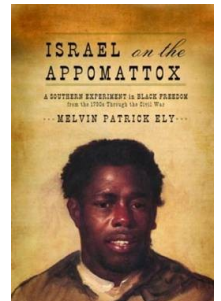
What an exciting year for the Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library concluding with the Martin Clark event in November.

I am eagerly anticipating our next Friends of the Library event. Dr. Melvin Ely will speak on Friday, March 19th. Ely, professor of history and black studies at the College of William and Mary, writes and lectures about African American history as well as U.S. Southern History.



Ely has won several awards for his most recent book, *Israel on the Appomattox: A Southern Experiment in Black Freedom from the 1790s Through the Civil War*.

*the 1790s Through the Civil War*, including the 2005 Bancroft Prize. It was also named a Best Book of 2004 by the Washington Post, Editor's Choice by the Atlantic Monthly, and was a selected title for the History Book Club.



Dr. Ely's presentation will complement the Friends Group's previous successful events. I hope to see each of you at the Greenwood Library on March 5th!

**Wendell Barbour**  
Dean of the Library

# Options for Becoming a Member of The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library

## Levels of Giving

### Author: \$1 to \$24

- Greenwood Library Newsletter

### Editor: \$25 to \$249

- Invitations to special events, such as book signings and book groups
- CD, DVD, and video check-out privileges
- And all of the above

### Publisher: \$250 to \$499

- Two (2) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

### Patron: \$500 to \$1,249

- Five (5) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- And all of the above

### Collector: \$1,250 to \$2,499

- Ten (10) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Membership in the Longwood University President's Circle

- Recognition on a donor honor roll located in the Library
- And all of the above

### Greenwood Society: \$2,500 and up

- Twenty-five (25) bookplates in honor or in memory of an individual of your choice
- Lunch with your favorite librarian
- And all of the above

## Become a Friend of the Greenwood Library!

You may become a member of the Friends of the Library by making an annual tax-deductible contribution. Online contributions may be made through the Longwood University Foundation Office at [www.longwood.edu/advancement](http://www.longwood.edu/advancement). Please indicate "Greenwood Library" as your gift designation. You may also mail your contributions to Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library, Longwood University Foundation Office, 201 High Street, Farmville, Virginia, 23909.

## Planned Gifts, Endowment Opportunities and Other Options

Donors making qualifying gifts may request that a room be named in honor or in memory of an individual or organization. The naming of buildings, rooms, or other physical spaces is contingent on approval by the Board of Visitors. Call Franklin Grant at 1.800.281.4677, extension 3, for a confidential discussion about the opportunities available.

## Contact Us

The Friends of the Janet D. Greenwood Library at Longwood University is governed by a steering committee composed of librarians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. For more information about the Friends of the Greenwood Library, please visit the Friends website at [www.longwood.edu/library/friends](http://www.longwood.edu/library/friends) or contact Wendell Barbour, Dean of the Library, at 434.395.2083.

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