



David L. Church '80 presents 1786 book from Liberty Hall, purchased on eBay by Mr. Church and James H. Redford '76, to Merrily E. Taylor during the 2006 Homecoming Friends of the Library event.

## Notes from the University Librarian



Welcome back for our Winter term! You might notice a theme of sorts in this issue of *Library Letters* – these days it doesn't matter so much where scholarly information comes from (it can be within our own walls, like

Roger Mudd's fine collection of twentieth-century Southern writers, in the "virtual" form of a web data base, or obtained swiftly from another library via Interlibrary Loan), but we still want our library facilities to be comfortable and welcoming. We've taken a small step forward in the Leyburn Library with the creation of The Book Nook coffee station and minor improvements to lobby seating, and we hope that more substantive and positive changes will be coming along in the year to come.

The Library's most important function is providing the information resources faculty and students require to conduct the central business of the University: teaching, learning and research. We want to enable you to engage in these activities with comfort and convenience, whether you're in the library buildings, in your office, or at home. While today's libraries are truly "without walls," we know that our buildings, with their print collections, remain important as a center of the University's intellectual activity. We're working to make sure that both W&L's libraries – the virtual and the tangible – are functional and aesthetic.

Have a pleasant and productive semester!

Merrily E. Taylor  
University Librarian

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## Book Nook Coffee Station Opens at Leyburn

Aided by University Librarian Merrily E. Taylor and Chairman of the Friends of the Library Robert E. Huntley, Provost Tom Williams cut the ribbon to officially open the new coffee station in Leyburn Library on November 1.



"It's a sign of the times and the new way students and faculty use libraries," said Ms. Taylor. "Today's libraries are active, vibrant places of learning and research, and as comfortable as your family sofa. Adding coffee accessibility 24 hours a day is just one way we plan to serve our constituents now and in the future."

The self-service coffee station offers six flavors of coffee, plus cappuccino, hot chocolate and a variety of teas. To facilitate the coin-operated machine, a bill changer was installed next to the coffee area; both are heavily used. In the first month, over 1,000 beverage packets were dispensed.

One student's reaction was "My grades are bound to go up, now that I can get coffee at 3 a.m.!" Many students reacted with "WOW! This is so cool!"

Additionally, the Friends of the Library had travel mugs created in support of the new coffee area (see story on next page).

"This is not intended as a money-making effort," the Provost commented, "Rather it is a reflection of the times; students and faculty are looking for comfort and convenience in their work and study areas. This is just the beginning of great things to come for Leyburn."

With the Provost's encouragement, some new furnishings have been added to enhance the comfort of the areas near the new coffee station.

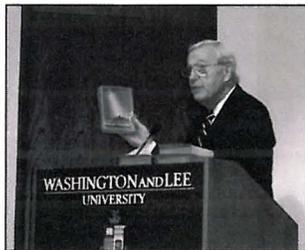


## Roger Mudd '50 Donates Major Southern Literary Collection

Roger Mudd, an acclaimed television journalist and alumnus of Washington and Lee University, has donated his extensive collection of 20th-century Southern writers to the Washington and Lee University Leyburn Library. The collection, some 1,500 volumes in total, will be transferred in installments. Mudd, W&L class of 1950, presented the first 100 volumes at a program sponsored by The Friends of the Library on Oct. 21 during W&L's 2006 Presidential Inauguration Weekend.

The total collection comprises first issue or first editions of the complete works of almost 200 writers, including William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Robert Penn Warren and Ellen Glasgow. His initial gift consisted of the complete works of Faulkner, Glasgow and Erskine Caldwell.

Mudd dates his love of books to when he was eight years old. He was inspired to begin his collection as an undergraduate by the late W&L Professor of American Studies Marshall Fishwick (1949-1962). "It was Marshall Fishwick who really got me started and convinced me book collecting was a hobby worth pursuing," he said. Mudd made the donation to his alma mater in memory of Professor Fishwick, who passed away in May 2006 after a distinguished career at W&L and Virginia Tech University. Fishwick is regarded by many as the originator of the discipline of popular culture.



"We are delighted that Roger Mudd has seen his way to make this important donation to W&L's library," says University Librarian Merrily E. Taylor. "A complete collection of this magnitude is rare, and we are very fortunate to be able to make it available to W&L students and faculty, as well as the public. We are also honored to preserve this fine collection for use for generations to come."

Mudd, who said he had run out of space and has now stopped collecting, adds, "Not collecting does not mean that I have lost my fascination with books, their welcoming warmth, their heft, their permanence, the brilliance of their creation from the first little hints and scribbles to the final shiny product with its distinctive fragrance.

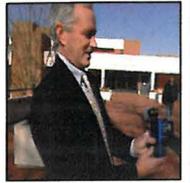
"Above all, giving my Southern collection to my alma mater means that those thousand friends I got to know over the years, those friends who lived in our home and slept on our shelves will get to stay together as a family in a splendid new home, with proper climate and protection, where I know they will give as much pleasure and joy to those who love books and love Leyburn Library as they gave to me."

## FOL Update

The Friends of the Library passed the 200 member mark by the end of 2006. President Ken Ruscio put us over the top by being #200. If you want to join or get more information, contact Friends Coordinator Karin O'Callaghan at 540.458.8642 or ocallaghank@wlu.edu.

## New Coffee Mugs Available

President Ken Ruscio shows off his brand new blue travel mug with the slogan "Caution! Knowledge is *Hot!*" on one side, and "The Book Nook, Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University" on the other.



In support of both the new coffee station and the University Library, the Friends of the Library are selling the attractive mugs. All proceeds go right back to the Library in the form of Friends projects.

The mugs are perfect for a favorite high school or college student. And they're just \$5 each, plus shipping/handling if not purchased in person at the Circulation Desk of Leyburn Library. To order your mug(s), contact Karin O'Callaghan at 540-458-8642 or ocallaghank@wlu.edu. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

## Book Sale

The 2006 Parents' Weekend Annual Book Sale earned an impressive total of \$2,361.50 for future library materials and programming. That amount includes \$582 earned during the second annual Thursday afternoon Friends of the Library preview. This year's sale included a cozier selection than last year, and we offered great buys in history and East Asian studies, as well as lots of popular trade titles and some interesting audiovisual items. We had fewer sets and individually priced items this year, which may account for a \$300 drop in profit from last year. Thanks for your support!

## ILL Is Running at Top Speed!

Did you know that your ILL requests can be delivered, on average, in less than **FIVE** days?

Thanks to the new ILLiad software and an update to the workflow process, the University Library's interlibrary loan service (ILL) has achieved faster turnaround times than ever before. **Borrowing** turnaround time is what our users are most concerned with: it is the time between placing the request and receiving the item. Articles are received and delivered electronically, while books, videos, and such are received via ground transportation. **Lending** turnaround time is the time that it takes between receiving a request from an outside library for an item we own, and our unit sending the item out to the borrowing library.

The decreased turnaround time is especially commendable in view of the fact that the number of requests ILL receives for borrowing and lending materials continues to increase.



Balam Tomlin '08 places an ILL request using the online form.