

The End of an Era @ the Mary Livermore Library

by Anne H. Coleman



Lillian Brewington
Photo by Bobby Ayers

Lillian D. Brewington, Special Collections Librarian *extraordinaire*, moved into a new phase of her life. After more than 36 years of employment at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Lillian retired July 31, 2009.

Lillian's distinguished career began in 1964, when she worked as a Records Clerk in the Registrar's Office for two-and-a-half years. In 1967, she left the University and moved out of state with her family. However, after living in Maryland for eight years, Lillian returned to Pembroke and to UNCP. She began working in the Library's Technical Services on July 17, 1975. The organizational structure of the technical services area afforded her the opportunity to work in several different capacities including purchasing, accessioning, and labeling. Lillian fondly remembers that she also dealt with "anything else that needed to be done."

In July 1980, Lillian accepted the position of secretary to the library director, **Dr. Robert Hersch**. During this period, she also volunteered to serve as the head of Government Documents Services. Later, always looking for a new challenge, Lillian decided to pursue a master's degree in library science. She continued to work full time in the Library and was promoted to Circulation Librarian. She remained in this position from July 1987 until she graduated from North Carolina Central University with an M.L.S. degree. After earning the M.L.S. degree, she served as the Government Documents/Special Collections Librarian from 1989 until her phased retirement began two decades later on July 1, 2006.

At that time, Lillian took a one-month leave from UNCP and then returned to work half time as the Special Collections Librarian. According to Lillian, her schedule of 20 hours per week allowed her to "come in late and leave early," thus giving her more time to spend with her husband (**Hartman**), her children (**Carlita, Michael, and Ray**), and her beloved grandchildren. Lillian's phased retirement ended on July 31, 2009, and she "officially" retired from her many years of devoted service to the Library and UNCP; however, she still plans to stay involved by volunteering in Special Collections and staying active with the Friends of the Library.

During Lillian's years of service to the campus, she worked with four library directors (**Miles L. Raisig**, Dr. Hersch, **Dr. Clarence Toomer**, and **Dr. Elinor Foster**); witnessed campus leadership by five chancellors (**Drs. English Jones, Paul Givens, Joseph Oxendine, Allen Meadors, and Charles R. Jenkins**); and worked in each of the Library's service areas except Serials Services.

When asked what she planned to do during her retirement, Lillian said her future looked very bright. She plans to spend lots of time traveling to the beaches and mountains of North Carolina with her family. She



Lillian Brewington and Carlene Cummings

Photo by Cindy Saylor



Nickie Blanton and Carlene Cummings

Photo by Cindy Saylor

is already planning for more family dinners at her home and at least two-weeks decorating time for her Christmas trees.

Looking forward to what the future holds for her caused Lillian to take a nostalgic look back to her past years at UNCP. Some of her favorite memories include riding to work with her father, former Police Chief **Haynes Deese**, and her sister, **Linda Deese Oxendine**, then secretary for the Physical Science Department. Another sister, **Valarie Deese**, also works at UNCP as a Student Services Specialist in the Biology Department, so there are many “family” memories from Lillian’s years on campus. She also cherishes the memory of being part of a library staff that was “more like family than co-workers” and being able to help hire **Carlene Cummings** and **Nickie Blanton**, who are “two of the best assistants a supervisor would ever want.”

Lillian wanted to express her sincere appreciation for the library staff members with whom she has worked over the years and for the dedicated stu-

dent assistants whom she supervised, particularly those who finished their degrees and came back to the Library as staff. This list of former students includes **Eric Chavis**, **Leah Hammonds**, **Banessa Hunt**, and **Saprina Oxendine**, as well as Carlene and Nickie. Lillian said, “I truly enjoyed every minute of the time spent working with the awesome employees of the Mary Livermore Library, and I am so proud of my former students and all of their achievements.”

In closing, the staff of the Mary Livermore Library would like to thank Lillian for her dedication to her job, her coworkers, and the campus community. She has left an indelible imprint on the University, the Library, and her colleagues. We would like to wish her well with the words from this “Retirement Blessing”:

Thank you for your insight, your guidance, your companionship, your integrity, and for all the sacrifices you made.

May God bless the path you take.

May God bless your future labors with success.

May your newly found freedom bring you great pleasure and deep satisfaction.

May God bless your body with health and your soul with joy.

May your work here continue to flourish in your absence.

May you continue to spread your kindness and wisdom upon us for many years to come.

May God watch over you and your family and shield you from harm.

May all your prayers be answered.

Amen.

Taken from: http://helpguide.org/life/spirituality_prayers.htm