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STATE NEWS

FLORIDA

University of Central Florida's New *Knowledge Commons*

UCF's oldest academic building opened for the fall semester Monday, August 23 2010 with a "facelift."

Completion of the *Knowledge Commons*, the newly redesigned main floor of the Library, marks the first significant change to the building since 1984. The space brings learning, technology, resources, and academic support together in a way that meets student demands for support of collaborative and individual study, research, and discovery.

Some comfortable group project areas in the *Commons* feature large, flat-screen monitors and white boards. Other areas house computer workstations flanked by panels for an atmosphere of privacy for an individual or several students. The *Knowledge Commons* features 196 computers and seating for 479. In total, two-thirds of seating on the floor will host either a desktop PC or be wired with 110V outlets where students can plug in laptops and personal technology.

Assistance with library resources and technology will be available at the new Research and Information Desk. The desk can be seen from the building's entrance, and from most areas in the *Knowledge Commons*. Two glass-enclosed consultation stations, in close proximity to the Research and Information Desk, are available for appointments with librarians for in-depth research assistance. University Writing Center consultants will hold scheduled office hours in one of the

consultation stations for walk-in and scheduled peer consultation appointments.

Barry Baker, director of Libraries, states, "Our goal is to create a dynamic and exciting atmosphere blending technology, print & electronic resources and easy access to assistance for research and instruction in an intellectual center where a wide range of scholarly and social activities will take place."

Frank Allen, the Library's associate director for administrative services, headed the *Knowledge Commons* task force. He states that, "the space is meant to be flexible enough so that students can use it as they see fit, for whatever project they might be working on."

The *Knowledge Commons* also features more natural light, brightly painted walls, fresh carpeting and comfortable new furniture.

The Library, which was built in 1968, was the first academic building at UCF, then known as Florida Technological University. The Library's five floors housed all of the university's original classrooms and offices.

In 1984, the Library was expanded to double its size. In 2006 the area to the right of the Library's entrance was converted into a popular learning space called Infusion, which features computers, popular books, and refreshments.

The new *Knowledge Commons* space is the result of several years of feedback from the UCF community. Library staff consulted with students and faculty members about how the facility could support research, teaching and learning. The 2009-2010 Student Technology fee

and the UCF Foundation's Annual Parents Campaign provided funding in part for the *Knowledge Commons*.

Work on the second floor began in May 2010 and continued through the summer semester. The Library's Web site was updated with project news and pictures of the construction throughout the summer.



Director of Libraries Barry Baker looks on as Student Government Association's Latoya Jackson (Director of Student Affairs), Nelsi Mora (Academic Affairs Coordinator), Vice President Taylor Lochrane, and President Mike Kilbride cut the ribbon for the opening of new Knowledge Commons at the University of Central Florida main library.

GEORGIA

ELS Students Visit the Cobb County Public Library System

International students from the ELS Language Centers at Southern Polytechnic State University visited the Cobb County Public Library System, Oct. 7, 2011 during a research workshop that took place at the Central Library in Marietta.

"Coming here opens a window for the students. Even someone in the local community [would] be surprised by how much is here at the library," ELS Language Center/Atlanta Director, Ann

Willis said. ELS courses range from the beginner's level of English for travelers to the master's level for college-bound students and executives.

The students received a tutorial on several computer-based research tools including, Proquest, EBSCOhost, and Netlibrary databases. They also received a preview on the Gale Virtual Reference Library, a collection that has thousands of online reference books.

The information is vital according to the Head of Central Library Adult Services, Suzanne Kincer-Weaver because these tools are key to a starting point for researchers.

"Library staff lay the foundation on which the patrons gather information," Kincer-Weaver said. She said, once staff shows people the tools available at the library and how to get started, the library patrons can build on that base.

Outside of her school, Central Library is the first public library in the United States that Isabel Lameda, an ELS student from Venezuela, visited. "It's very good because we have a lot of options for research and because the people here want to help us," Lameda said. "I like the fact that we can access the net so we can get the information quickly."

While the ELS Language Center staff usually use the university library to introduce the availability of research materials to the students, they were required to look for an alternative this fall. "It occurred to us that the Cobb Central Library would be a possible means of doing the same thing. The extent of research, resources, and the outstanding support we received when we approached

the Cobb Central Library came as a wonderful surprise to us,” Willis wrote in an e-mail.

An ELS student from Saudi Arabia, Saleh Alqahtani, said the library tour was a helpful experience. “This part of class helps to improve our skills and taught me how to research,” Alqahtani said. “The next step for me is college.”

Willis added, “Not only were we able to offer our students an alternative place to do research, but [the tour] showed them how much is available from a county library system. We plan to make regular visits [to the Central Library] to show each new group of our international students what a wonderful resource it is to residents and visitors alike.”



An ELS/Southern Polytechnic State University student from Saudi Arabia, Saleh Alqahtani, (front, right) participated in a virtual tour at the Central Library. He and a group of about 15 students received an overview of free library research tools. Reference Librarian Suzanne Weaver-Kincer (left) guided the group through computer data basis available through the Cobb County Public Library System.

Irvine S. Ingram Papers Open for Research

The papers of Irvine S. Ingram, president of West Georgia College from 1933 to 1960, have been processed and are now open for research in Ingram Library’s Annie Belle Weaver Special Collections on the University of West Georgia campus in Carrollton. The Irvine S. Ingram papers contain a wealth of information not only on the educator who led the college for nearly forty years, but also on the development of higher education in Georgia during the twentieth century.

Irvine S. Ingram became principal of the Fourth District A&M School, the predecessor of the University of West Georgia, in 1920. In 1933, he was appointed president of West Georgia College, a two-year teachers college, when the A&M system of schools was abolished by the state legislature. Privately known as “Izzy” to his students, Ingram led the college in offering desperately needed teacher training to the West Georgia region. He obtained substantial grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund during the Depression and early years of World War II, without which many programs and buildings on the campus would not have been possible. Ingram developed College in the Country, a nationally-recognized program for rural education training and adult education, including programs for African Americans. He pushed for the four-year degree program, which the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents approved in 1957. The library was named for Ingram in 1980 at the dedication of its addition.



Irvine S. Ingram was known for not bowing to the pressures of segregationists during the 1950s. His invitation to Atlanta editor Ralph McGill to speak at West Georgia College's 1959 commencement, the same year that McGill addressed the United Negro College Fund, was deplored by a local "states rights" organization. Ingram stood by his invitation and received numerous letters of support from lawyers, clergymen, and educators. He also smoothed over a local controversy in which a student teacher at the Sand Hill Elementary School refuted a book that made the claim that African Americans were mentally inferior to whites.

A Methodist, a Democrat, and a cat-lover, Ingram was a vital part of the Carroll County community. His wife, Martha, was the daughter of college trustee George Munro and a teacher at the A&M School before her marriage to Ingram. They had one child, Anne, a retired professor who lives in Carrollton today.

The Irvine S. Ingram Collection has been cataloged and currently contains fifty-one

boxes of materials, mostly correspondence between Ingram and other educators, members of the Board of Regents, newspapermen, governors, and numerous movers and shakers in Georgia politics and education. A later accession of his collection is as yet unprocessed.

Concurrent with the release of Ingram's papers is the conversion to DVD of a 1975 film entitled "I.S. Ingram a Great Georgian." Narrated by actor Lorne Greene, the film reviews Ingram's life, including interviews with Ingram himself, his family, and other educators, and also offers a good overview of the University of West Georgia's history. The thirty-minute film was part of a University of Georgia series on "Great Georgians," including Carl Vinson, Lamar Dodd, and Benjamin Mays among others. The DVD is available in the library's general collection.

For the Irvine S. Ingram Collection finding aid, follow the Special Collections link on the Ingram Library website to the Special Collections LibGuide—University Archives (http://libguides.westga.edu/data/files4/112809/IS_Ingram.pdf). To make an appointment to view the collection (while the library is undergoing a renovation), as well as for additional information, contact Special Collections at (678) 839-6361 or sdurham@westga.edu.

KENTUCKY

Gilliam Postcard Collection Available at Northern Kentucky University

The Special Collections & Archives Department of the W. Frank Steely Library at Northern Kentucky University is pleased to announce the availability of

its newest digital collection – the Gilliam Postcards http://archives.nku.edu/digital_collections/ . These postcards are one series in the Gilliam Collection which includes additional postcards and other items. Since this project was partially funded by a grant from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, only postcards which depict scenes within the state were selected for inclusion. Approximately 250 images dating from 1900 to 1970 depict everything from churches, colleges, US Army Camp Taylor, Churchill Downs, Man O' War, a Kentucky mountain home, the Lincoln National Memorial, Liberty Hall designed by Thomas Jefferson, the funeral of Governor Wm. Goebel and other scenes from 36 Kentucky towns and cities.

The back of some postcards has correspondence from family and friends to Mrs. Berte Gilliam. The University Archives collaborated with a graduate public history class to teach them about copyright for unpublished archival records. The class conducted a risk analysis to evaluate the potential risk from digitizing the correspondence and making it available on the internet.

Plans are underway to further develop this collection through collaboration with faculty in the College of Education in order to create lesson plans for the use of the postcards to teach local history to public school children.

MISSISSIPPI

MSU Libraries Creates Sesquicentennial Website

Mississippi State University Libraries have teamed up with the Mississippi Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission to promote events, sites,

and educational materials relating to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Mitchell Memorial Library's Instructional Media Center designed a logo for the Commission, and the Libraries' Web Services Department built a website to help distribute information about Mississippi's role in the Civil War and about Sesquicentennial commemorative events. The website includes a photo gallery, videos, an extensive timeline of the Civil War in Mississippi, and maps of important battlefields and cemeteries. Visitors can submit events to be displayed in an interactive calendar. Visit the website at <http://www.ms civilwar150.com>.

The Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War began in January 2011 and will continue through 2015. Check the website often to find out what's happening in your region!

Pascagoula Public Library Receives Main Street Award

In September 2010, the Pascagoula Public Library won the "Fine Arts Award" at the Sixth Annual Pascagoula Main Street Awards Gala. The award was given to the library for its Maritime Display which was installed back in April, 2009 during National Library Week.

Branch manager Lori Smith said, "I received the award on behalf of the library at a dinner held at the Grand Magnolia Ballroom. We are thrilled that the city sees the value of public libraries and all the things we provide for the public including local history."

The Maritime exhibit in the library atrium showcases artifacts from Pascagoula's maritime history donated from the

collection of Charlie McVea of Colle Towing in Pascagoula. The display was designed by Sandra Cumbest, ASID, NCIDQ. Construction and fabrication is by David Smith with Fabrication Specialists of Mobile and lettering by George Prudhomme of Bancroft Enterprises of Mobile. Funding for the exhibit was generously provided by Chevron of Pascagoula and the Friends of the Pascagoula Library.



Pascagoula branch manager Lori Smith holds the Main Street award that was received for the Maritime Display in the library's atrium.

NORTH CAROLINA

NC State University Reaches New Heights as James B. Hunt Jr. Library Tops Out

North Carolina State University's iconic new [James B. Hunt Jr. Library](#) was "topped out" Thursday, January 13, 2011, in a traditional ceremony held on the university's Centennial Campus. The event marked a major milestone in the construction of what promises to be nothing less than the best learning and collaborative space in the country.

"Topping out" is the customary ceremony that celebrates the completion of the frame of a new building. In a ceremony dating

back at least to the 8th century, the top beams are put into place at the structure's pinnacle. As a part of the tradition, workers place a small evergreen on the building to symbolize growth and to bring good luck. In keeping with the university and construction team's commitment to sustainability on the Hunt Library project, which is anticipated to receive a LEED Silver designation from the U.S. Green Building Council, a recycled holiday tree topped the building during the ceremony.

[Skanska](#)--the construction contractor for the Hunt Library--used a large construction crane to hoist the last two beams into place. These beams, as is traditional, were signed by key stakeholders in the project, including the engineers, architects, designers, and trades people who are responsible for the project, as well as Chancellor Randy Woodson and the staff of the [NCSU Libraries](#) and the [Institute of Emerging Issues](#), the building's two main occupants. This ceremonial raising of the last beams is meant to honor the skill and hard work of the men and women who are constructing the building.



The new Hunt Library will anchor Centennial Campus' academic oval with an inspiring signature" space that embodies NC State's prowess in technology, engineering, textiles, and science and that says "this is NC State in the 21st century." Sitting on one of the

highest physical points of campus, the building will offer stunning views of the Raleigh skyline to the east and Lake Raleigh to the south.



“The James B. Hunt Jr. Library is shaping the future for the Centennial Campus, and we are honored to be part of its creation,” says Steve Stouthamer, executive vice president and general manager for Skanska Carolinas. “By partnering with our friends at N.C. State once again, the Skanska team is helping to create a truly unique, forward-thinking and beautiful facility that will be enjoyed both by the university’s students and the community at large for a long time to come.”

“The NCSU Libraries has a long tradition of building the learning spaces that move students to do their best work and in cultivating the technologies that encourage student learning,” noted Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries. “The ‘topping out’ ceremony is a great chance for us to thank the people on site who are making the next step in this tradition a reality.”

The Hunt Library is scheduled for completion in 2012.

NCSU Libraries’ Color Wall to Re-light Hillsborough Street

After an incredibly successful fund-raising campaign led by the local community, the [Color Wall](#) in the North Carolina State University D. H. Hill Library was re-lit in conjunction with celebrations scheduled for the official re-opening of [Hillsborough Street](#) in Raleigh.

Commissioned by Chancellor John T. Caldwell in 1972, the Color Wall is a huge display of light and form that beams out over Hillsborough Street through a library window facing the surrounding community. Created by long-time College of Design professor and Raleigh artist Joe Cox, the work is a bold, brilliant, and strikingly whimsical symbol of NC State and the learning embodied in the NCSU libraries.



photo courtesy of John Morris, *Goodnight, Raleigh!*

Though many have long considered the Color Wall the most significant and appreciated piece of 20th century public art in the state capital, the aging of its original mechanical switching system has made it inoperable for long periods over the last decade or so. Inspired by the interest of a community group convened as the Color Wall Committee, over 150 people who love NC State and the Libraries have donated more than \$30,000 to replace the Color Wall’s switching system and set up a permanent endowment to keep it

operating into the future. The campaign also received the support of several influential locally-based blogs and benefitted from a generous gift of Cox's paintings from his niece Janice McAninch and husband Skip, works that were shown and sold at the Lee Hansley Gallery.

"The Color Wall has long represented the almost magical merging of science, art and people that NC State has brought to the economy and culture of North Carolina," explains Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries. "We are so proud to see it shining out from the Libraries again, and so grateful to the community that made it possible."

Library to Note Civil War's 150th Daily for Four Years

What was happening in the South 150 years ago on any given date during the Civil War?

A website posting just that, every day for four years, is planned by the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The site will be among numerous library activities commemorating the 150th anniversary of the conflict.

Activities will begin with the exhibit "Home Front on the Hill: Chapel Hill and the University during the Civil War," on view in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room of the Wilson Special Collections Library from Feb. 1 through May 8.

The exhibit, free to the public, will feature about 160 items from library collections. Highlights will include:

- Letters related to the firing in 1856 of a UNC professor for his

opposition to extending slavery into new territories

- An 1860 letter from the professor's mother-in-law describing a local secessionist rally
- Minutes from University Baptist Church in Chapel Hill documenting when, in 1865, African-Americans left to form their own church
- Three eyewitness accounts of the April 1865 occupation of Chapel Hill by Union troops.

On April 12 – the 150th anniversary of the war's first military engagement, at Fort Sumter, S.C., in 1861 – the library will launch the website "The Civil War Day-by-Day."

The site, which will be available at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/civilwar>, will use Wilson Library's rich collections of archival documents and published materials to present the war as it unfolded in the South. Diary entries, correspondence, news articles, maps, photographic portraits and images of artifacts will be among the items posted daily until April 9, 2015, the 150th anniversary of Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender.

"We want to provide a sense of how the war was experienced by people living through it, who didn't know how it would end, or what might happen to them and their loved ones," said Biff Hollingsworth, archivist in the Southern Historical Collection and one of the site's creators.

The site will invite readers to share their own interpretations of and reactions to the documents.

Other library anniversary activities, all free to the public in Wilson Library, will include:

- A lecture March 30 by LeeAnn Whites, a history professor at the University of Missouri. Her title will be “Battle for the Home Front: Revisiting the Role of Women in the Civil War.” Whites wrote “Gender Matters: Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Making of the New South” and was an editor of “Occupied Women: Gender, Military Occupation, and the American Civil War.” The talk will begin at 5:45 p.m. after a 5 p.m. reception and viewing of “Home Front on the Hill.”

- Gallery talks for “Home Front.” On Feb. 16, Ernest Dollar, director of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, will describe Chapel Hill at the end of the Civil War. On April 13, Frank Fee, associate professor in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will discuss ways that news was gathered and disseminated to Orange County residents during the war. Both talks will be at 3 p.m. in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room on the third floor.

- Additional Wilson Library exhibits. Two will explore the Civil War in the imagination (2013) and ways in which the war has been commemorated through time (2015). Lectures and programs will correspond to these exhibits.

“It’s almost impossible to do serious research about the Civil War, and especially the Confederacy, without consulting materials in Wilson Library,” said Tim West, curator of the Southern Historical Collection and chair of the library’s Civil War 150th planning committee. “This anniversary encouraged

us to find ways to make those materials more visible and accessible to the general public.”

For information about Wilson Library’s Civil War programming and to learn more about its historical holdings related to the war, contact the library staff at (919) 962-3765 or wilsonlibrary@unc.edu.

NCSU Libraries Web Site Wins “Cutting Edge Service” Award from American Library Association

A little more than four months after it officially went public, the newly redesigned website for the [North Carolina State University Libraries](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu) (<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu>) has been honored by the library world’s premier professional organization as a cutting edge service that can and should be replicated by libraries across the nation. The Office of Information Technology Policy of the American Library Association presents its “[Cutting Edge Technology Service](#)” award annually to libraries that are serving their communities with novel and innovative methods. The NCSU Libraries was the only academic library in the country to be honored with a 2011 award.

In 2010, the NCSU Libraries thoroughly rethought its web site always keeping in mind two key principles: 1) we would militantly craft the new site based on the user-centered design practices that have long been a rigorous practice of the best commercial sites; and 2) we would take very seriously the fact that today’s students and faculty live comfortably in a blended world where the distinction between physical space and virtual space is fluid.

The result has been a substantial increase in the use of an already busy site, the unleashing of the potential of the site's distinctive search engine, enabling discovery and use of our strong research collections, and a solid increase in use of the portfolio of digital library services at the university. Since launch at the beginning of the fall 2010 semester, average searches per day are up 56% and average clicks have climbed 79% (compared to fall 2009).

“The NCSU Libraries long ago committed to being a technology incubator both for NC State and for our profession in general,” says Susan K. Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries. “The web site is our digital front door to all we have to offer, a critical part of how we serve today's mobile, dispersed, and very engaged students and researchers. I'm so pleased that our web team has received an honor for work that was so expertly conceived and so well implemented.”

Last year the NCSU Libraries won a 2010 ALA “Cutting Edge Service” award for its “Library Course Tools” project. This service automates the creation of an individual web guide on how to approach research tasks for every one of the over 6000 courses taught at NC State University.

Gil Wheless, Noted Landscape Architect, Places Papers with NCSU Libraries

The NCSU Libraries has received the drawings and papers of noted landscape architect Gil Wheless. A native of Durham, North Carolina, and alumnus of North Carolina State University's School of Design (now College of Design),

Wheless is known for incorporating natural plants, earth, and stone into sites to appear as though nature itself had created the design.

During the 1960s, Wheless studied under renowned faculty members Richard Moore and Lewis Clarke, both of whom advocated an ecological approach to landscape design. While in school, Wheless also began working for A. E. Bye, one of the first landscape architects to promote the use of native plant materials and the restoration of native woodlands. Wheless then became a principal partner in Environmental Design Associates, established in 1969 and at one time one of the largest landscape architecture firms in New England. By tagging the firm with the “environmental” title, Wheless and his partners signaled to potential clients the importance of relating materials and design to the land. The firm flourished and set the tone for this key movement in modern landscape treatments.

Wheless's clients and projects have included, among many others, the beauty and healthcare enterprise Chesebrough Ponds, the Dow Corning corporate headquarters, the Bronx VA Hospital, the Bridgewater Commons mall in New Jersey, Canterbury Green in Stamford, Connecticut, and the Parker Jewish Geriatric Center in Hyde Park, New York. He is also known for his residential work, which has included high-profile commissions from William F. Buckley, Jr. and Robert Rubin, and housing developments such as Crowne Pond Settlement in Wilton, Connecticut, and Springfield Farm in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.



Signature Wheless “negative-edge” pool on Cape Cod

The paper and digital collection that Wheless has donated to the NCSU Libraries includes drawings, plans, photographs, sketches, news clippings, brochures, pamphlets, and other materials.

“This collection is an important record of the influence of NCSU’s School of Design beyond the time of Dean Henry Kamphoefner (1948-1973) as students carried into their practices the principles they absorbed during that formative period,” explains Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries. “It also traces the seminal work of a celebrated landscape architect of the 20th century and provides a very valuable addition to our Special Collections Research Center’s growing body of materials on work that has changed the architectural culture throughout North Carolina and the nation. We are proud to make this collection available to scholars and to those in the public who are interested in the design traditions fostered by NC State University.” Wheless’s drawings and papers join those of his mentor, [Lewis Clarke](#).

Acquisition of the Wheless papers will also provide a powerful resource to support the teaching, learning, and research of NC State University faculty and students, especially in the College of

Design. A guide to the Wheless collection can be found online at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/findingaids/mc00145/>. To access the collection itself, please contact the Special Collections Research Center at (919) 515-2273 or at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/research/requestinformation.html>

NCSU Libraries Tagged to Model Next-Generation Technology-rich Learning Spaces

The [North Carolina State University Libraries](#) has received a \$313,000 grant to develop a roadmap for how 21st century libraries can best give a competitive edge to faculty, researchers, graduate students and a new generation of always-connected, technology-savvy, and highly-engaged undergraduates. Enabled by the generous support of a National Leadership Grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#), the NCSU Libraries will lead a collaborative project to prototype, develop, and disseminate plans for how mobile technologies, gesture-based computing, large scale visualization, enhanced reality and other emerging technologies can help academic libraries create the next generation of technology-rich collaborative learning spaces.

Since the 1990s, as personal computing geared up and universities discovered how group work can enable learning and prepare students for today’s collaborative working world, the “learning commons” has revolutionized the library experience. The NCSU Libraries has been at the fore of this transformation. The 2007 launch of the D. H. Hill Learning Commons has transformed the campus libraries into vibrant hubs of activity, where students gather to work through assignments, test

out ideas with their peers, and work with the iPads, graphics tablets, laptops and other technology devices they borrow over 100,000 times a year from the library. The Learning Commons is in large part responsible for the up to 16,000 daily visits the Libraries receives and for students insisting that the library space is their most valuable resource on campus. The NCSU Learning Commons has, in fact, become an international destination, with visits from over 75 groups from 17 states and 11 countries.

The IMLS grant recognizes the leadership that the NCSU Libraries has provided in developing new learning spaces and charges the Libraries and its collaborators in the project to develop a blueprint for the next generation of learning commons, one that fosters the interaction, iteration, and invention that technology enables.

This project to explore and create technology-rich learning environments will develop a three-part model that can be adopted and adapted by academic libraries everywhere. The “kit of parts” will provide a set of proven configurations and services that can be used to create successful technology-rich spaces in libraries and other campus facilities. The “assembly instructions” will provide guidance on how the parts work together to complement each other and meet the needs of a particular institution. The “roadmap” will lay out the design process that an institution would use to create learning environments.

The model will be based on user-centered research that will explore the real-world needs student and faculty, the challenges they face in meeting those needs on campus, and how spaces, services and technology can help meet those needs.

The study will investigate how today’s learners want to create and display content, use labs and studio spaces as catalysts for group work, and experiment with new teaching techniques and visualization technologies to incubate more powerful ways to learn.

“The D. H. Hill Learning Commons has transformed the NCSU Libraries and given us so much experience in how great spaces can transform the lives of students who learn here,” says Susan Nutter. “It’s been incredibly fun and energizing for me, my staff, and the university as a whole. We are incredibly proud to be chosen to carry the torch for the next generation of learning commons.”

The NCSU Libraries will partner in this two-year project with NC State University’s Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA) group and with DEGW, an international strategic business consultancy that specializes in how the design of physical and virtual spaces helps people and organizations better perform. The prototypes for next generation learning commons will be built and tested in the [Technology Sandbox](#), a technology incubator now being built adjacent to the D. H. Hill Learning Commons. The Technology Sandbox is supported by grant funds from IMLS awarded earlier this year under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the [State Library of North Carolina](#), a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. Early results from the grant work will also be deployed to help make the iconic new [James B. Hunt Jr. Library](#), now under construction on NC State’s [Centennial Campus](#), the best learning and collaboration space in the nation.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. According to IMLS Acting Director Marsha L. Semme, National Leadership Grants "provide opportunities to conduct research and develop the framework for future projects that have the potential to generate new tools, research, models, services, practices, or alliances that will positively impact museums, libraries, and the communities they serve. These projects encourage partnerships that address national issues of importance impacting education, scholarship, and public service."

Grant for Technology Incubator Supports Pioneering Learning Spaces at NCSU Libraries

CNN or ESPN commentators who parade their control of data by dramatically pushing, pulling, and reorganizing vast amounts of images or data on huge wall screens with mere sweeps of their hands will soon have nothing on the average North Carolina State University student.

A substantial grant awarded through the U. S. [Library Services and Technology Act](#) (LSTA) will anchor the latest initiative from the NCSU Libraries aimed at transforming how students learn and create in twenty-first century academic libraries. In the Libraries' new Technology Sandbox, currently under construction in D. H. Hill Library, NC State students will soon be able to put their talents to work at almost any hour of any day on the large-scale display and gesture-based computing

technologies that are now revolutionizing the visual display of data and the creation of digital media.

The Technology Sandbox will also serve as a test bed and showcase for technologies that will be available when the new [James B. Hunt Jr. Library](#) is completed in 2012, helping to ensure that the iconic building will be one of the most technically stunning academic learning spaces in the country.



The NCSU Libraries has earned an international reputation as a technology incubator for the NC State campus and for academic libraries in general—and for understanding how today's students learn and for encouraging that learning with inspirational spaces. Today's learners are mobile, deeply sophisticated in visual grammar and navigation, and thoroughly at home in a participatory culture. They learn by doing, and thrive in conditions where a group of friends putting their heads together over the latest technology at 3 a.m. can produce fabulously innovative projects.

Since it opened in 2007, the D. H. Hill Learning Commons has become a global destination for those watching how hands-on, project-based learning and collaboration can become a competitive advantage for a great university and for its graduates. The Tech Sandbox, a 1700-square-foot space down the hall from the Learning Commons, will spur this

innovation and student creativity forward at an accelerated speed and anticipate the environment that students and faculty can expect from the Hunt Library, now being built on NC State's Centennial Campus.

The LSTA grant will allow the Libraries to bring online a [Perceptive Pixel](#) display wall to provide the sort of interactive, multi-touch systems that are just beginning to become familiar to the public through large businesses like CNN who make their mark creating visually powerful data. The software development kit that empowers the Perceptive Pixel will soon begin transforming how students and faculty go about their research, teaching and learning. When the Tech Sandbox opens in the fall of 2010, it will also feature two [Microsoft Surface](#) tables that allow multiple users to simultaneously move digital information and objects around the unit's tabletop by simply touching the screen.

While large-scale visualization and multi-touch equipment is already finding its way into specialized labs around the NC State campus, the Tech Sandbox will make these tools easily available to all comers during the 140+ hours each week that D. H. Hill is open and packed with students and researchers. It will be the go-to place for the NC State community to experiment and play with new and otherwise out-of-reach technologies in an informal area that encourages the peer-to-peer learning and collaboration that have made the NCSU Libraries the most popular student haunt on campus. In addition, the technology incubator will provide a powerful lab for library staff and faculty to prototype and experiment with new types of learning spaces, especially those that specialize in blending the virtual with the physical.

The creative learning spaces that sprout from the work done in the Tech Sandbox will grow into the core of the Hunt Library, where technology immersion will be the norm throughout the building. "We plan for the Hunt Library to be nothing less than the best learning and collaborative space in the nation," says Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries. "In the two years we have before the new building is completed, the Technology Sandbox will be a great incubator for us, filled with our best and brightest helping us evaluate new technologies and shape the Hunt experience. And we plan to have great fun while we are at it."

SOUTH CAROLINA

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War Brings Protesters to Greenville County Library

The Greenville County Library System received the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* grant sponsored by the ALA and NEH, which consisted of a traveling exhibit on display October 8-November 19, 2010 and a series of programs beginning with an opening reception on October 8. By all accounts it was a successful series. The Hughes Main Library experienced an estimated 15% increase in patronage due to the exhibit and programs were attended by a total of 400 people.



The program series was designed to attract audiences of all ages, education and political persuasion. Although the series was less-than-controversial, several determined protestors appeared at the final three programs of the series. This group was admitted into the programs, engaging the presenters in debate with heated questions such as, “What do you think of Lincoln being responsible for the murder of innocent Southern Souls?” and “How do you explain the fascist symbol on the Lincoln memorial?” Though the points made were not always the most cogent, and had a tendency to stray off the subject matter of the lecture, the presenters were able to deftly maintain control of the program. All and all, the group actually elicited a strongly positive reaction from the rest of the program participants and they were far from unwelcome at each lecture.

PEOPLE NEWS

GEORGIA

Valdosta State University

Howard S. Carrier has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University Odum Library, Valdosta, GA as an Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian. Howard received his MSLS from the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009. He also has a LL.M. from the University Of Leicester(United Kingdom).

George R. Gaumont, University Librarian and Dean of the Master of Library and Information Science Program at Valdosta State University, retired December 31, 2010. Dr. Gaumont began his career as a reference librarian at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington after receiving his MS in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was college librarian at Shepherd College, now Shepherd University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Gaumont has held leadership positions in national, regional, and state library organizations. He was a member of the original committee that established GALILEO, Georgia's virtual library. He was also instrumental in starting the MLIS Program at Valdosta State University, the first new LIS program in many years.

Michael Holt joined the faculty of Valdosta State University Odum Library, Valdosta, GA as an Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian. Michael received his Master of Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA in May 2010.

Betty D. Paulk, Associate University Librarian and Professor at Valdosta State University's Odum Library, retired November 30, 2010. She began her career at Valdosta State University in 1973 as reference librarian and assistant professor. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in library science from Florida State University and has held leadership positions and committee assignments in the American Library Association, the