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## The Dacus Digest Volume 5 Issue 2

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# The Dacus Digest

Ida Jane Dacus Library, Winthrop University

Vol. 5, Issue 2, Spring 2020

## Virtual Library Services

With Winthrop's shift to remote instruction during spring semester, many of Dacus Library's reference and circulation services have also moved online. Even though students cannot physically be on campus, they still need research assistance and access to academic resources to successfully complete their spring semester courses. Dacus faculty and staff have been working remotely to fulfill our mission of supporting the research needs of the Winthrop community.

Librarians have created a [Library Services for COVID-19 Response](#) guide, which includes answers to frequently asked questions and important how-to information about logging in to databases from off-campus, getting help with research assignments, and accessing textbooks.

We have been shining a spotlight on the array of online resources provided by the library, including ebooks, articles from journals and newspapers, and streaming videos with closed captioning. We are also highlighting the companies that have opened up or expanded access to their online academic collections during this time of widespread remote learning. Especially essential resources for

students have been the free online textbooks temporarily being provided by some vendors. If, however, students cannot find their textbook on one of these vendor websites, we are scanning pages that are needed and e-mailing them to students.

We have also implemented additional ways to provide some of our typically in-person services and materials in a virtual environment. Our [Book-A-Librarian](#) service has successfully moved online with screen-sharing technology. Students can meet virtually with a librarian for more in-depth research assistance, and screen sharing allows the student to follow along during a database demonstration. The reference desk is also entirely virtual right now, in the form of our chat service and e-mail. Chat hours have been expanded, and librarians are now available through chat from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. every day until the end of exam week.



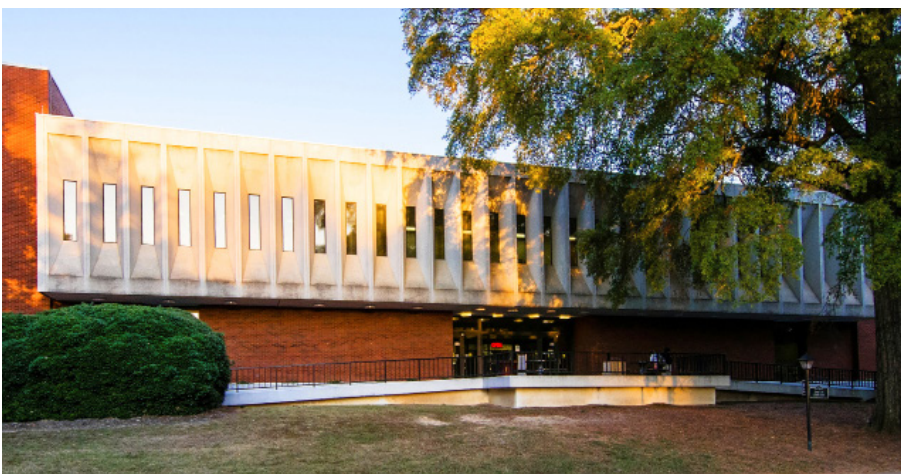
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# A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Library

Dacus Library held a Shakespeare-themed event in February to coincide with the Department of Theatre and Dance's production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

On February 18, Sarah Provencal, the play's director, gave a presentation titled "Shakespeare's text from page to stage: How theatre artists bring Shakespeare's words to life." The presentation included demonstrations from the play's cast members, who were in full costume. The cast also shared their interpretations of the play and their experiences playing Shakespeare characters.

On February 20, Dr. Matthew Fike presented "The Historical Context of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*." Audience members

learned about the historical events and daily life during Elizabethan England that provided the backdrop and context for understanding the play.

Students who attended the presentations received Cultural Event credit and, of course, free pizza.

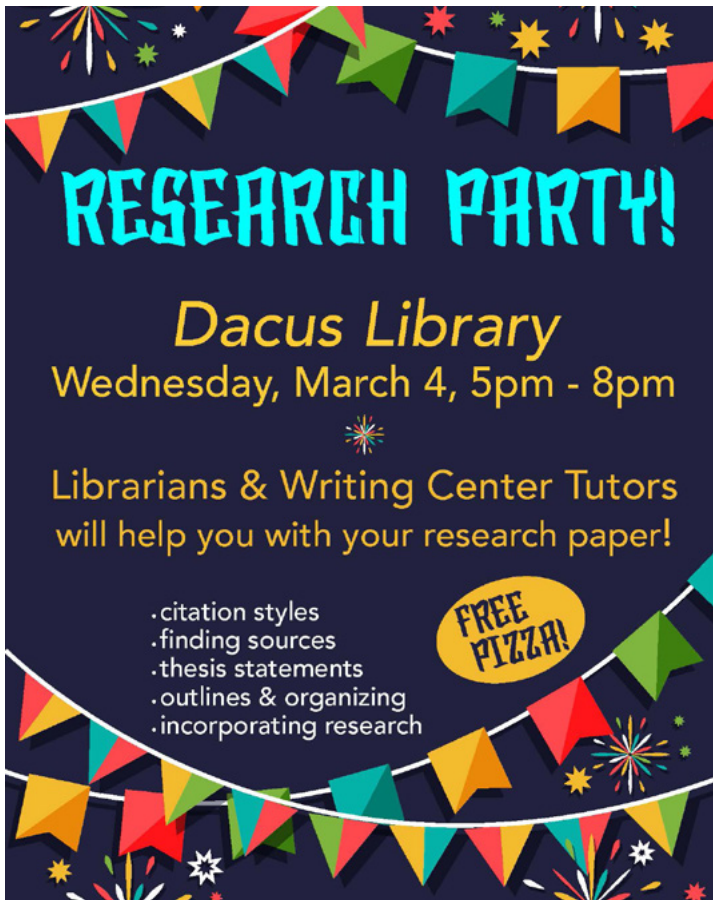
The library partnered with these departments previously for a similar event. In April of 2018, we hosted an event based on the tabletop role-playing game *Dungeons and Dragons* when the Department of Theatre and Dance performed the play, *She Kills Monsters*. Professors from the Departments of English and History gave presentations at the library about the literary works and medieval culture that inspired the creators of D&D, as well as other popular games and movies.



## Shakespeare Display

Throughout the month of February, we had a Shakespeare display in the library that highlighted various materials from our collections pertaining to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The display included a wide range of works from literature, theatre, music, and art.





## Research Party

The Writing Center and Dacus Library teamed up again this semester to give students an all-in-one opportunity to get research and writing help – plus pizza! On March 4, tutors from the Writing Center and librarians from Dacus were available in the library’s group study area from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. to assist students with their mid-term research assignments.

The first Research Party took place during the second week of October of fall semester. Since it was so positively received by both faculty and students, we decided to continue hosting these events with the Writing Center around mid-semester going forward.

One of the main goals of this collaboration is to make our services more visible to students. By holding the event in the evening, when the library is typically busier, we hope that more students will notice and decide to ask for research and writing assistance.

## Dean Herring to Retire

Dean of Library Services Dr. Mark Herring is retiring from Winthrop University in June after 21 years of service. He came to Dacus Library in 1999 from Oklahoma Baptist University, where he was dean of library services. His doctorate degree is from East Tennessee State University in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

Dr. Herring is the author of eight books and scores of articles appearing in *Library Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, *American Libraries*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and many others. His most recent book, published in July 2015, is titled *Social Media and the Good Life: Do They Connect?*

He was chosen by President Bush in 2008 to serve on the board of the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The board is the main source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums, and one of the chief advisers

on how to allocate its annual budget.

Dr. Herring oversaw the renovation of the main floor of Dacus Library in 2012. The upgrade included the Information Commons desk, group study rooms equipped with new technology, and 24/5 library access hours. That same year, the Louise Pettus Archives was relocated to a former bookstore on Cherry Road. The new space gave the Archives much more space and also provided a classroom and researcher study areas. He also oversaw a flourishing of Dacus budgets over his two-decade career.

Dacus faculty and staff wish Dr. Herring all the best in his retirement.



## Phil Moody Artwork Donated to Dacus

Professor Emeritus Phil Moody, Winthrop Department of Fine Arts 1985-2017, has donated a large artwork to Dacus Library. In 2005, as the inaugural Patrick Gallery Faculty Research Award recipient, he created eight new artworks based on Italian paintings of the 14th and 15th centuries – paintings that he'd been influenced by since he was an art student in Edinburgh. The 2005 work resulted in a series of large, backlit boxes with transparency film that investigated the “Madonna and Child” theme in contemporary terms.

His work has been included in more than 80 group exhibitions in the U.S., England, Scotland, and Poland, and he has done 37 one-man exhibitions.



“Madonna of the Trees”  
64” x 64” x 8”  
Cibachrome film on plexiglass in basswood box with fluorescent tubes, 2005



## Graphic Novels Display

A new book display about graphic novels was created right before the closure of campus in March. It features a variety of graphic novels from the library’s collections, along with books about the history, analysis and techniques of graphic novels. We also have books about comics, manga, and anime. Our online library includes hundreds of ebooks about these topics that are available to Winthrop students, faculty, and staff all the time.

## New Library System Coming This Summer

This summer, Winthrop will join the other 54 academic institutions in South Carolina in implementing a next-generation shared library system. This new platform will reduce costs, improve the research experience for students and faculty, and

allow libraries to better manage their resources. It will include a new discovery tool that will provide a single, intuitive user interface for finding full text articles, print and electronic books, media, and more in one search.

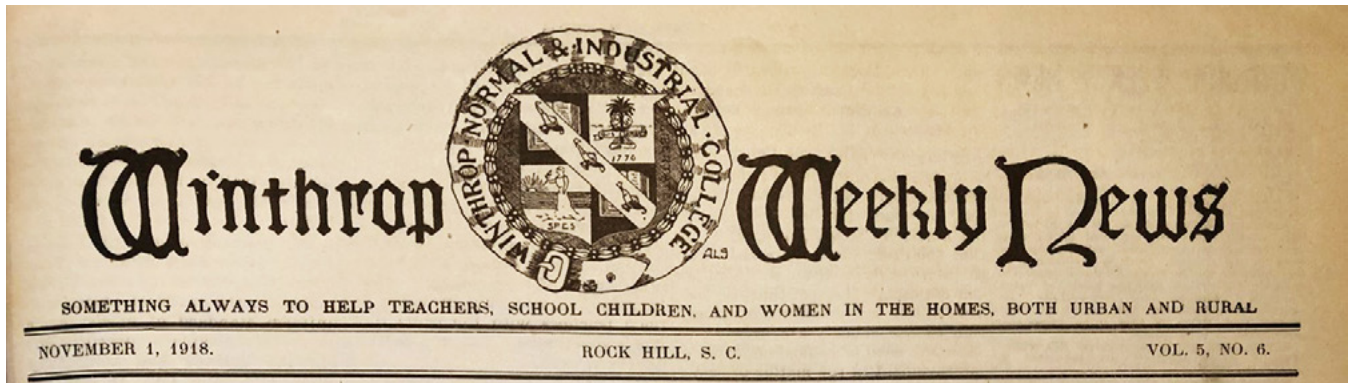
**Book  
Returns**



**Please hold on to library materials, including interlibrary loan items, until campus reopens. You will not be charged any late fees for items that were checked out during spring semester, as long as they are returned in good condition.**

# Winthrop Weekly News: Winthrop's First Newspaper

by: Gina Price White, Director of Archives and Special Collections



From the fall of 1915 through the spring of 1923, Winthrop Weekly News served as Winthrop's first newspaper. It was published weekly between September and July each academic year in order to include both the regular and summer schools. The newspaper was not a student newspaper but was rather more of a public relations tool for the school. The masthead notes that "Winthrop Weekly News is published to keep people and press informed of all matters of interest and value relating to the work of the College, which is maintained by the State in the interests of the women, the children, the schools, and the homes of South Carolina. Editors are respectfully requested to publish for the benefit of their readers such items as they think seasonable and suited to local news."

Each issue includes articles about various programs, events, academics, and other topics. Issues during April 1918 included articles titled: Farm Handicraft in Rural Schools; Clothing and the War; American Women and the World War; Liberty Loan Day at Winthrop College; Stenographers and Typewriters Wanted; Win – the – War Message: South Must Produce its Own Food and Feed is the Admonition of Southern Farmers; and Libraries at the Training Camps. All of the issues have articles relating to Winthrop students, faculty and staff, Winthrop Training School, programs such as home extension and rural education, and the Star Course programs (later known as the Artists Series). The Winthrop Weekly News is an excellent source of information concerning Winthrop and higher education in the years just prior and just after the First World War.

The Louise Pettus Archives has only one complete set of these newspapers. The issues were never microfilmed and the Archives' goal is to digitize the issues and make them available on the Pettus Archives Digital Commons page. Although the issues are smaller than a standard newspaper, they are too large to fit on the largest scanner the Archives has that accommodates papers, photographs, and documents up to 11" X 17". Because the Archives has only one complete copy of the newspapers, it is not advisable to send them to a vendor to digitize. Several years ago, the Archives was part of a grant obtained by PASCAL to digitize yearbooks of some of its members. The Archives chose Tatlers from 1898 to 1918 for the project. The scanning center to which we were instructed to send the yearbooks, misplaced them for about three months. Thankfully, they eventually found them. We are fortunate that we have more than one copy of each yearbook had the center not located the volumes. The Pettus Archives would like to raise the \$30,000 needed to purchase a larger scanner to digitize these issues of the Winthrop Weekly News as well as other oversized items in the collections and make them available on Digital Commons. Other oversized collections that could be digitized include the Alfred Gilchrist Architectural Drawing collection, a collection of 18th and 19th century maps, and drawings and maps of Winthrop among other material.

If you would like more information on the project, please contact Gina Price White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at [whitegp@winthrop.edu](mailto:whitegp@winthrop.edu).