

DISCOVERY

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Spring 2010

From the Chair...

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I am pleased to report that, even during these difficult economic times, the Friends of the Library surpassed its fund raising goal for 2009. Your contributions continue to make a significant difference in the educational experience of the students at the College of Charleston, the research capabilities for the faculty, and the library's ability to positively influence the community. With your support, the library was able to reinstate its license with Lexis-Nexis, one of the most critical and valuable online research tools available.

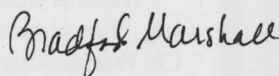
Over the past months, we've heard much about how our charitable dollars are used – the programming versus administrative expense debate. I want to assure you that the Friends of the Library's overhead expenses are minimal. It is our goal to use your much appreciated donations to improve the collections at the Library, core and rare, digital and print.

"What's So Funny?," our exciting spring speaker series, will focus on the nature of humor. Please take the

time to read about the offerings in this edition of *Discovery*, and I know you'll find several that you'll want to attend. We're also very excited about our spring Winthrop Roundtable speaker, Bob Seelert.

The library is always a busy place, and it feels good to be there. The staff is friendly and helpful, and the students look as happy as students can look when surrounded by piles of books. If you haven't been to the library in a while, I encourage you to stop by and be a part of what you're building. I know you'll be pleased, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,



Bradford S. Marshall
Chair, Friends of the Library

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What's So Funny? Find Out This Spring

By Sara Caughman

Mark Twain once said, "Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritation and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place."

This spring, the Friends of the Library will dedicate its speakers series to humor with its four-part series, "What's so funny?" The series will highlight the powerful role humor plays in literature, politics, medicine and film and will follow the evolution of satire and jokes through time.

The series opened on **January 27th** with a panel discussion moderated by comedian Greg Tavares of The Have Nots!, Charleston's acclaimed improv comedy troupe. The panel also featured Chris Lamb, College of Charleston professor and author, Jane O'Boyle, humor author and contributor to Charleston Magazine, and Colin Quashie, Emmy-award winner, *Mad-TV* writer and conceptual artist.

No matter the subject of a film, there is always room for some well-deserved comedy. On **Monday, February 15th**, Anne Slatton, professor of video production and film theory at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, will discuss the development of humor in film from the 1920's to present day. Having worked as a professional writer, director and producer for both stage and screen, Slatton is well-versed in the kinds of humor appearing in film, from slapstick to screwball, parody or spoof.

There is truth to the age-old saying, "Laughter is the best medicine." On **Wednesday, March 3rd**, Dr. Neil Shulman, writer and producer of the 1991 Blockbuster film *Doc Hollywood* starring Michael J. Fox, will discuss humor and health and explain why laughter is the best form of therapy. Dr. Shulman is Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Emory Medical School and President of the Patch Adams Organization. His long-time passion for educating children and adults on

medical literacy, health, and laughter has made an instrumental difference in underserved communities around the country.

The Friends will partner with the Cougar Activities Board, a student-run organization at the College of Charleston, by hosting nationally-known standup comedian J.B. Smoove for the "What's So Funny?" finale on **Friday, March 26th**. J.B. Smoove currently stars as Leon Black on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and is a talented writer, comedian and actor. He has written for *Saturday Night Live* and starred in numerous sketches on the show. He also stars as Manny on Fox's *Everybody Hates Chris*. Location and time for the event will be announced soon.

For more information on "What's So Funny?" call 843.953.5530 or visit <http://blogs.cofc.edu/friendsofthelibrary/events-2/>.

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Actor and comedian J.B. Smoove will perform a standup comedy show on March 26th.

The Friends of the Library Bring Lexis-Nexis Academic Back to the College of Charleston

By Jenny Fowler

Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Library, the College of Charleston has resumed its subscription to Lexis-Nexis Academic®, a leading global provider of full-text content in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, accounting and other academic disciplines.

As reported in the spring 2009 edition of *Discovery*, the South Carolina legislature reduced funding for PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) by 90 percent, a nearly \$1.8 million cut. PASCAL was created in 2004 as a consortium of libraries that would share costs for essential education materials, including electronic journals and databases.

When funding for PASCAL was decreased, individual libraries, including the College of Charleston libraries, were forced to pay a much higher subscription fee for resources currently held in their collection. The library staff was forced to make decisions on which databases to continue subscriptions and which databases to cancel.

However, thanks to the Friends, the library can now provide a critical resource for students and faculty.

"I would like to personally thank the Friends of the Library for their generous and timely gift of supporting our subscription to the Lexis-Nexis Academic database," said Tom Gilson, Head of Reference for the Addlestone Library. "Lexis-Nexis is a significant and highly valuable resource that provides our students and faculty with full-text access to thousands of general interest, legal, business and other professional journals and magazines."

Lexis-Nexis also offers access to newspapers, news wire services, TV and radio broadcast transcripts and selected web publications. Students from almost any field of study at the College of Charleston benefit from use of this resource.

Dr. Lynne Ford, political science professor at the College of Charleston, was thrilled to hear that Lexis-Nexis was back. "Lexis-Nexis is an invaluable tool for faculty and student research," Ford said. "In my own research on work-family policy, it is the most reliable tool for documenting developing trends expressed through national media outlets. I have a Bachelor's Essay student this year who is using Lexis-Nexis to conduct congressional research on the Iraq invasion. The database has allowed her to create a timeline of public rhetoric to assess the state of constitutional war powers."

The College of Charleston Libraries maintain an institutional commitment to PASCAL collections and interlibrary loan services. Payments to PASCAL for databases and interlibrary loan services have increased from \$12,000 to \$56,000 over the past few years. Last year, in order to pay these increased fees, the library decreased the book budget. The support from the Friends will enable the library to return the book budget to its prior funding level.

Despite efforts by many librarians across the state, reinstated funding of PASCAL seems grim for the near future. Fortunately, the College of Charleston has maintained full funding for book and journal subscription budgets. The



Tom Gilson, Head of Reference at the Addlestone Library, instructs College of Charleston students Emilie Rossett and Naseem Keshmirian on research methods for Lexis-Nexis Academic.

library continues to work closely with other libraries to negotiate the best prices for critical materials.

The support of the Friends of the Library enables the library to raise the quality of materials held in the collections, as in the case of Lexis-Nexis.

"As a librarian who has worked with our students for more than 20 years, I can tell you that Lexis-Nexis will be heavily used and deeply appreciated," Gilson said.

"It is a database that provides resources having relevance for all types of research, whether it is a first-year report or a senior seminar paper. It is a resource that I will turn to, time and time again, to assist our students and faculty. In short, we are all in the Friends of the Library's debt."

Jewish Heritage Collection Wins CLIR Grant

By Dale Rosengarten

Curator and historian, Special Collections

In November 2009, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded the Jewish Heritage Collection (JHC) a grant of \$184,000 to process and catalog recently acquired materials.

Since its founding in 1995, JHC has become a leading southern Jewish archives. The "Hidden Collections" CLIR grant allows the library to hire a fulltime project archivist for two years. With help from Special Collections staff, an assistant archivist, and graduate interns, the archival team will process a significant portion of the backlog.

Top priorities for processing are the William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection of first editions, fine art prints, postcards, and artifacts; the Holocaust Archive of memoirs, photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia from 65 survivors and veterans who witnessed the Shoah; and 100 other uncataloged collections that document the Jewish experience in the American South.

With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the CLIR program was launched in 2008 to enable archivists to process uncatalogued materials and make them available to the public. The College's Avery Research Center was among the first round of award winners. It is all the more remarkable, then, that JHC was one of 14 successful applicants in 2009, selected from a field of 91 proposals. Clearly (or should we say CLIRly), the College is doing something right.

The value of the Jewish collections, above and beyond their individual contents, lies in their potential to transform an entire field of scholarship. Until recently, southern Jewish life has been a subject of interest only to specialists. Jews began settling in Carolina as early as 1694; now, more than 300 years later, the College library has undertaken the first concerted effort to collect materials documenting their presence and impact.

The collection of Rabbi Rosenthal, who served Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim for 36 years, recalls the central role that Charleston once played in world Jewry. In 1800, the port city boasted the largest Jewish population in North America. Now the College is poised to present to researchers a Judaica collection of enormous breadth and depth acquired over a lifetime by an authority on synagogue architecture and Jewish iconography.

The Rosenthal gift is so diverse that several disciplines stand to benefit. Scores of rare books dating from the 17th to the 21st centuries, hundreds of fine art prints, thousands of images of Jewish ceremonial life and costumes, tens of thousands of vintage postcards, albums, medals, stamps, newspapers, pamphlets, broadsides, cartoons, watercolors, and artifacts—this phenomenal collection will allow scholars to trace the image of the Jew in Western culture over time and bears witness to the lost world of European Jews.



Augustus Aurelius Solomons (center) operated a dry goods store in Sumter, South Carolina. Clockwise from upper left: Catherine E. Cohen, who married A.A. in 1852; their first son, Aurelius Aaron, who died at one year old; Susie Grantham, "cook for the Solomons for years & a fine one"; Kate Cecile, the Solomons' eldest daughter; an unidentified beauty, possibly named Anita; and Jacob Theodore, the Solomons' fourth child. Collection of Barbara Schwartz Burchstead.

Just as South Carolina offered refuge for Jews in the colonial era, so Holocaust survivors have put down roots here. Their memories and the photos and documents they managed to save recount powerful stories of loss and renewal—stories we will make available through the College library's online catalog. JHC actively promotes the use of our collections in primary, secondary, and college classrooms and we look forward to being able to multiply their impact once they are catalogued. The Holocaust Archives will be put to immediate use by students at the College of Charleston and University of South Carolina, and eventually by middle and high school teachers across the state.

Special Collections develops new audiences, offers classes and workshops in archival research, hosts special events for the Friends of the Library, provides support services to organizations on and off campus, and mounts exhibits. Currently on view is a selection of new gifts to the Jewish Heritage Collection. For a sneak preview of the riches that are about to be made accessible to a worldwide audience, come up to the third floor of the Addlestone Library and take a look.

New Collections Added to the Lowcountry Digital Library



The Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) currently consists of roughly 17,000 digitized items from eight different institutions. The LCDL team recently started digitizing a number of collections at the South Carolina Historical Society to be included in the digital library. The collections include organizational records, museum artifacts, manuscript collections, photograph collections, and oral histories.

<http://lowcountrydigital.library.cofc.edu>



Clockwise from top: Randolph Hall at the College of Charleston; St. Michael's Church on Broad Street; Vendue Range. All photographs were taken by George L. Cook just days after the Charleston Earthquake on August 31, 1886. Photos courtesy of the Charleston Museum, a partner of the Lowcountry Digital Library.



Built in 1770 and the oldest building on the College of Charleston campus, the Robert Bishop Smith House is now the President's House at 6 Glebe Street. This photograph was most likely taken in 1965 during the College's restoration of the home after acquiring it from St. Philip's Church in 1961. Courtesy of the College of Charleston Photographs Collection.



This 1939 photograph of the Gloria Theatre facade at 329 King Street was taken at the South Carolina premiere of *Gone With the Wind*. The theatre in the rear of the building was built by Albert Sottile in 1928, acquired by the College in 1974, and is now called the Sottile Theatre. Courtesy of the College of Charleston Photographs collection.

World Chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi to Speak at the Winthrop Roundtable

By Sara Caughman

On March 11, 2010, the Friends of the Library will welcome Bob Seelert as the guest speaker for the spring Winthrop Roundtable.

Mr. Seelert's journey is the great American success story, from small-town Connecticut to CEO of five companies in three different industries. After receiving his B.A. and M.B.A. from Harvard, Mr. Seelert spent 23 years with General Foods Corporation and eventually became President and CEO of Worldwide Coffee and International Foods. He closely observed one of the biggest mega-mergers in US corporate history, the acquisition of General Foods by Philip Morris in 1985.

In the early nineties Seelert led turnaround operations at Topco, a grocery industry co-operative, and Kayser-Roth, a leading U.S. manufacturer of leg wear. In 1995 he was recruited as the high-profile CEO to lead Cordiant PLC, the UK-based holding company that was formed following the dramatic shareholder revolt at the London-based Saatchi & Saatchi. He became Chairman in 1997, moved the headquarters to New York, and re-built and re-focused the company as a potent ideas company working with many of the world's leading corporations and brands. In 2000, Seelert concluded a merger of Saatchi & Saatchi with the Publicis Groupe of France at a share price that was 450% higher than the starting level.

His book, *Start with the Answer and other Wisdom for Aspiring Leaders*, is a collection of powerful stories Mr. Seelert has accumulated over the course of his distinguished career as a leader in global businesses. His talk at the Winthrop Roundtable will focus on the 10 things that businesses can do to ef-



fectively lead in tough times. Mr. Seelert will describe the essential steps that will position an individual or company to be ahead of the pack for the inevitable economy recovery.

The Winthrop Roundtable is an invitation-only event for Friends of the Library at the Contributor level or above. For more information, please contact Jenny Fowler at 843.953.6526 or fowlerj@cofc.edu.

New Leaders, New Members: Friends of the Library Board

By Jenny Fowler

At the January 25th meeting of the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, Bradford Marshall was re-elected for a second term as Chair of the Board. Mrs. Marshall was first elected in spring 2009 after three years of incredible leadership by the board's first chair, John M. Rivers, Jr.

Mr. John Cay was elected as Vice Chair, a position Dr. Renee Anderson has skillfully held since the board's inception in 2006. Robert S. "Tex" Small, Jr. was re-elected as Treasurer. Mr. Small's father, Robert S. Small, was a great benefactor to the libraries at the College of Charleston.

The board welcomed three new members: Susan T. Friberg, Allison H. Gregory and Stephen C. Osborne '73, all of Charleston. Mrs. Friberg has previously served on the board of the Historic Charleston Foundation and currently serves on the board of Spoleto Festival USA. Ms. Gregory

is the Vice President for Wealth Management at SunTrust Banks, Inc., is an aspiring novelist and serves on the board of the Center for Women. Mr. Osborne currently serves as the Executive Vice President for Business Affairs at the College of Charleston, his alma mater, and has served on the Thomas Cooper Society board at the University of South Carolina.

The Friends of the Library board members provide ongoing leadership for the library's fund raising and "friend" raising efforts. Board service terms are three years. Officers serve one-year terms and may serve up to two consecutive terms.

David Cohen, Dean of Libraries, would like to extend his gratitude and appreciation to all of the members of the Friends of the Library board for their leadership.

Friends of the Library - Spring 2010 Speakers and Exhibit Series

February 1 - March 15, 2010

Addlestone Library, Wachovia Gallery - 2nd Floor

EXHIBIT: Bunce Island

"Bunce Island: An 18th-Century British Slave Castle in West Africa," is a 20-panel exhibition that sets out the history of one of the most important slave castles in the Atlantic slave trade. From 1668-1807, no fewer than 30,000 men, women, and children were transported into slavery on plantations in the West Indies and North America. Because Bunce Island is in the heart of West Africa's "Rice Coast," the castle was particularly important to Charleston and Lowcountry planters who were especially interested in acquiring slaves with experience in growing rice. The exhibition tells the history of the castle itself and its role in plantation slavery in the United States. The exhibition was created by James Madison University historian Joseph Opala, in conjunction with the Friends of Sierra Leone.

Monday, February 15, 2010 - 6pm

Addlestone Library, Room 227

What's So Funny? - Part 2

Funny on Film: A History of Silver Screen Humor

Anne Slatton, professor of video production and film theory, University of North Carolina-Asheville, will discuss **humor in film** from the 1920's to present. Having worked as a professional writer, director and producer for both stage and screen, Slatton is well-versed in humor appearing in film, from slapstick to screwball, parody or spoof.



Wednesday, March 3, 2010 - 6pm

Admissions Center, Robert Scott Small Building

What's So Funny? - Part 3

A Funny Feeling: Laughter as the Best Medicine



Dr. Neil Shulman, *Doc Hollywood* writer and producer, will discuss **humor and health** and explain why laughter is **good therapy**. Dr. Shulman is Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Emory Medical School and President of the Patch Adams Organization.

Thursday, March 11, 2010 - 6:30pm

Addlestone Library, 3rd floor

Winthrop Roundtable with Bob Seelert

Bob Seelert has been the CEO of five companies in three different industries. Mr. Seelert spent 23 years with General Foods Corporation and closely observed one of the biggest mega-mergers in US corporate history: the acquisition of General Foods by Philip Morris in 1985. Known for building brands and enacting numerous turnarounds, Mr. Seelert has been World Chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi since 1997. Mr. Seelert will share his collection of powerful stories he has accumulated over the course of his distinguished career as a leader in global business. Paid event. Call 843.953.6526.

Friday, March 26, 2010 - Time and Location TBA

What's So Funny? - Part 4

Stand Up and Laugh: National Comedian J.B. Smoove



Nationally-known actor and comedian J.B. Smoove will perform a stand-up show as the finale of the "What's So Funny?" series. J.B. Smoove is best known for his role as Leon Black on HBO's hit series, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Smoove has also been featured on *Saturday Night Live*, where he worked as a writer for much of the last decade. **Stand Up**

and Laugh is co-presented by the Cougar Activities Board at the College of Charleston.

Thursday, April 22, 2010 - 7pm

Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center, 96 Wentworth Street

Deliver Us from Evil: The Slavery Question in the Old South

Dr. Lacy Ford (University of South Carolina)

Dr. Lacy Ford is a professor of history and chair of the department at the University of South Carolina. A major contribution to our understanding of slavery in the early republic, *Deliver Us from Evil* illuminates the white South's twisted and tortured efforts to justify slavery, focusing on the period from the drafting of the federal constitution in 1787 through the age of Jackson. He shows that there was not one antebellum South but many, and not one southern white mindset but several, with the debates over slavery in the upper South quite different in substance from those in the deep South.

All Friends of the Library events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. For more information, please visit <http://blogs.cofc.edu/fol>.

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View our online edition at
<http://blogs.cofc.edu/fof>

Friends of the Library Events



Presidential historian Richard Norton Smith discusses the relationship between Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt at the Winthrop Roundtable on November 10, 2009.



Sissy Ehrhardt, Friends of the Library board members Marge Palmer and Dan Ravenel, and Anne Cleveland enjoy each other's company before the Winthrop Roundtable with Richard Norton Smith.

Photos courtesy of Ameila Phillips / Dreamland Images

Visit <http://blogs.cofc.edu/fof> to view more pictures of Friends of the Library events!