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Top Shelf

The Newsletter of the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center

February/March 2006 *Volume 1, No. 1*

Woodruff Library Responds to User Needs

Jameca West, *a* ***CAU*** *graduate student in social work , enjoys the convenience of the new wireless (WiFi) areas of the library. Wireless access is just one of the new user-recommended initiatives that went into effect at RWWL this semester.*

You asked for it and you got it! In response to user recommendations and Library staff observations, the Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) has instituted several new initiatives for this semester—extended hours of operation, wireless (WiFi) access and cell phone-free/quiet zones.

Extended Hours: As of January 11, the Library opens earlier and closes later on most days to accommodate the research and study needs of library users. The Library opens one hour earlier during the week and remains open later on Fridays and Sundays. For a full list of the new extended hours of operations and the services available, visit: ***http://www.auctr.edu/libraryinfo/news/newhours.html***.

Wireless Access
Guest wireless access to RWWL Internet resources is now available within the Library—no computer port necessary! Access is available in areas on the Lower, Main and Upper levels of the Library to RWWL users with laptops that support WiFi compatible 802.11b access. Once the WiFi wireless card in the laptop is activated, access becomes automatically available. Guest wireless access is provided via an unsecured, wireless connection. Users are advised to exercise security awareness by using firewall

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Woodruff Library Wins $90,000 Mellon Grant

The Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) of the Atlanta University Center has been awarded a $90,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop a comprehensive information literacy program for the faculty and students of its member institutions—Clark-Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and Spelman College.

"Information literacy is at the heart of instructional design," said **Loretta Parham**, Director/CEO of the Robert W. Woodruff Library. "This project will support the missions of each of the member institutions, missions that speak to academic excellence and the building of foundations for life-long

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RWWL Mellon Interns Learn Librarianship

CAU graduate student **Lelani Simmons** *(second from left) with other Mellon Fellows attended the American Library Association Mid-winter Conference in San Antonio, TX.*

No more shushing! That's the message from this group of prospective librarians participating in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program, funded by a $500,000 multi-institutional grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Participating institutions include: The Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL), Mount Holyoke (MA), Oberlin (OH), Occidental (CA) and Wellesley (MA) Colleges.

According to the American Library Association (ALA), more than half of the librarians currently working in the profession will reach retirement age within the next 15 years. Not only is there an urgent need for a larger pool of professionals to replace them, there is an even more critical need to broaden the profession's racial and ethnic composition.

The RWWL component of the project is coordinated by **Warren Watson** (Morehouse '02; CAU SLIS '05). Undergraduate interns and graduate Fellows participate in coursework and hands-on projects with mentorship from librarians. Four undergraduate students participated in internships during the 2005 summer and fall semesters: **Justin Ellis—CAU**; **Janelle Brown—Spelman**; **Luke Garth—Morehouse**; and **Edward Esiemokhai—CAU**. Six new interns, four from Spelman and two from CAU, will participate in the 2006 Spring/Summer semesters.

Lelani Simmons, Mellon Fellow, said, " the Recruitment Program provides invaluable experience and a rare opportunity to work in a field before deciding to pursue that particular career path."

Digital Initiatives Enrich HBCU Historical Treasures

HBCU Library Alliance
Historically Black Colleges & Universities

The Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) of the Atlanta University Center is one of 10 libraries in the HBCU Library Alliance participating in an 18-month collaborative, digitization project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The digitization project will assist in preserving the history and culture of the institutions, provide broader access to collections of HBCU libraries and promote collaboration among the project participants. In November 2005, representatives of the 10 participating libraries attended a week-long digital training seminar at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA. RWWL Deputy Director **Gail McClenney** and **Archives & Special Collections** staff members **Andrea Jackson** and **Trashinda Wright** attended the training. Conducted by Cornell University, the seminar provided a unique opportunity for library staff to gain practical experience in state-of-the-art digital techniques while working in a collaborative environment.

Participating libraries will implement digital projects that will increase access to their special collections and illustrate the rich, cultural heritage of HBCUs.

Woodruff Library in the News...

The **Archives & Special Collections** Department was featured in the January/February 2006 issue of *Black Issues Book Review*. In the article "Saving Ourselves: Archival Treasures," (p. 48-50) Woodruff was highlighted as one of the more notable repositories at HBCU libraries.

Karen Jefferson, Head of Archives and Special Collections, was quoted as saying, "What makes archives important is the research that produces product [books, articles, exhibits, films]. Writers use this raw information in order for people to learn new aspects of history which is exciting and oftentimes leads people back to the original sources."

New Electronic Resources!

RWWL has purchased 33 new electronic resources to support your curricular needs. Some of the exciting eResources now available include:

- **ARTstor** — Museum-quality, *digital art collection of more than 300,000 images* in architecture, painting, sculpture, photography and other visual culture
- **Black Drama** — 1,*200 plays by 201 playwrights*
- **Black Short Fiction** — 4,*370 stories and folktales* by African, African American and Caribbean authors
- **Classical Music Library** — *More than 40,000 live tracks of distinguished classical recordings*; from choral works to symphonies, operas, and the avant-garde spanning Medieval to contemporary time periods.
- **NetLibrary** — *More than 35,000 full-text electronic books*
- **Oxford Reference Online (Premium Collection)** — *More than 1 million entries across 25 subjects*; 12,000 images; 130 subject dictionaries (bilingual included); more than 500 full-color maps and flags
- **Project Muse** — *More than 300 scholarly journals* in the humanities, arts and social sciences

Access these resources from any RWWL computer or with a remote access proxy account, any personal computer or laptop. For a full listing of RWWL eResources, visit: ***http://www.auctr.edu/eresources/eresources.html***.

Woodruff Leaders on the Move

Carolyn Hart, Assistant Director for Planning and Development, will attend the prestigious Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)/ Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

The week-long institute will focus on effective leadership in academic organizations, transformational learning and successful approaches to planning.

The timing of Ms. Hart's participation in this program is particularly opportune given the Library's current strategic thrust for change.

"Participation in the Institute is an excellent example of the Library's commitment to building a leadership team that can contribute fully to organizational transformation," Hart said.

Reminder: Sign Up for Remote Access!

Current faculty, staff and students of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) are reminded that they can remotely access virtual resources from any Internet connection. Faculty and students who establish a remote access proxy account to authenticate eligibility can search and retrieve most of the Library's electronic full-text databases and journal articles from off-site locations—home, office or dormitory room.

To establish remote access, users must create an account through any networked computer at Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, Spelman College or the Robert W. Woodruff Library. Visit: ***http://www.auctr.edu/eresources/remoteacess.html*** to create an account. Questions? Contact: ***helpdesk@auctr.edu***.

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learning."

Information literacy is defined as "a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information" (*Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*, the Association of College and Research Libraries [ACRL]).

The project will involve training of RWWL librarians on the language, services and resources of information literacy, and the recruitment of AUC faculty to collaborate with librarians to implement the program at the colleges.

Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik, nationally known information literacy expert and retired dean of the San Jose State University Library, will serve as consultant on the project

She led initial workshops with Atlanta University Center faculty and Woodruff staff on February 8. The information literacy project will continue throughout calendar year 2006 and into 2007.

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software and VPN technologies when accessing sensitive data in public hotspots.

Cell Phone-free/Quiet Zones

In response to user comments and concerns, several areas of the Library have been designated "cell phone-free/ quiet zones" in which cell phone use is prohibited. These zones—designated by signage on each of the Library's three levels—will assist in maintaining an environment conducive to quiet study and research. Upon entering the Library, users are asked to turn cell phone ringers off, maintain conversations at a low level and remain courteous of other Library users' study needs. In areas designated as "quiet zones," users are further asked to refrain from group study and conversation, as well as cell phone use.

Questions or feedback? Call the Reference Desk (404-978-2067) or **visit: *http://www.auctr.edu/comments/***.

Now Showing...

"Baobab Tree" is one of the many images displayed in the Africa in Mind *photo exhibit.*

On display in the Virginia Lacy Jones Exhibition Hall through May 13, is the exhibit, ***Africa in Mind.*** This collection of photographs by Morehouse Assistant Professor of English, Dr. Michael Janis, provides a "walking tour" of rural and urban life in West Africa. A former journalist with Reuters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Janis hopes the pictures will inspire viewers to think more critically about images of African life.

Spelman African Diaspora and the World (ADW) Film Series at RWWL continues throughout the spring semester with films shown each Wednesday and Sunday in the Virginia Lacy Jones Exhibition Hall. These films support Spelman's ADW program, a two-semester sequence interdisciplinary course. For dates, times, and film titles visit: ***ww.spelman.edu*** or **contact the RWWL Reference Desk at 404-978-2067.**

Save the Date...

When: Saturday, September 26, 2006

What: Symposium on the Atlanta Race Riot of 1906

Where: The Robert W. Woodruff Library

The Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) will host one day of a four-day symposium to the mark the 100th anniversary of the Atlanta Race Riot of 1906. The event is one of many conceived and sponsored by the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, an organization formed to increase public awareness of this tragic episode in the city's history.

The Coalition's Public Education Committee has organized informal discussions, professional development seminars for educators and online courses for students and interested citizens who want to learn more about this historic event. There also is a list of online and hard copy resources for those interested in learning more about the topic (*http://www.1906atlantaraceriot.org/*), many of which the Woodruff Library has made available to its users.

Andrea Jackson, RWWL Curator of Archives and Manuscripts and a member of the Public Education Committee, said "This commemoration provides a unique educational opportunity for members of the Atlanta University Center consortium. We're hoping to spark dialogue and scholarship that will resonate within our learning community long after the 100th anniversary year."

The Woodruff event will be a combination of lectures, panel discussions and student presentations. A symposium planning committee is soliciting faculty, student and community activist participation and identifying speakers and panelists. **To participate or suggest programs or speakers, contact Andrea Jackson, Archives & Special Collections, at *ajackson@auctr.edu* or 404-978-2115.**

UPCOMING EVENT

Faculty Publications Exhibit and Reception

On February 28th the Robert W. Woodruff Library will celebrate the published works of Atlanta University Center faculty.

From 10 a.m.-8 p.m., an exhibition of faculty books, manuscripts, poetry and published materials will be on display in the Library's Virginia Lacy Jones Exhibition Hall. From 6-8 p.m., all AUC faculty and staff are invited to a reception honoring the work of their colleagues. Sponsored by the Library Advisory Council, the exhibit and reception are the culminating events in a series of Library-related activities taking place on AUC campuses throughout the month of February. Please join us on Feb. 28 in celebrating the accomplishments of our AUC faculty.

Top Shelf

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