Friends of the Library

You are cordially invited to become a Friend of the Houston Cole Library.

The purpose of the Friends is to promote an appreciation of the Library as the center of academic life at Jacksonville State University and to provide enrichment for the Library’s resources.

The privileges of membership in the Friends include:

- An opportunity to participate in the enhancement of the Library
- A card entitling you to check out books
- An opportunity to enjoy programs and activities of the Friends

Stop by the circulation desk and ask for details!

Friends of the Library welcomes Lilly Ledbetter

Friends of the Library were honored to welcome Ms. Lilly Ledbetter to the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library on the evening of March 16. Ledbetter shared stories and insight about her book, Grace and Grit, then opened the floor for questions from the audience. Many guests purchased books during the event, and Ledbetter stayed to sign the books and visit with guests.

Ledbetter was born into a home without running water or electricity, but somehow always knew she was destined for more. In 1979, she was hired for her dream job in management at Goodyear, one of the first women hired at that level. Nineteen years later, Ledbetter received an anonymous note saying she was making thousands less per year than men in her position. Ledbetter’s fight to right this injustice would change her life forever, and make her a true American icon.

Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond by Lilly Ledbetter with Lanier Scott Isom (Crown Archetype, 2012) chronicles Ledbetter’s incredible life, from her humble beginnings in Possum Trot, Alabama, to passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, signed by President Obama in 2009. When she filed a sex discrimination case against Goodyear, Ledbetter won — and then heartbreakingly lost on appeal. Over the next eight years her case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, where she lost again. And yet, Ledbetter continued to fight, her determination becoming a victory for the nation when she

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JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY REMEMBERS THE HOLOCAUST

The 33rd Annual Jacksonville State University Holocaust Remembrance will be held April 14, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at the Stone Center Theater. Holocaust survivor Dr. Robert May of Birmingham, accompanied by his daughter Ann Mollengarden, will give the keynote address at the free event. The program will also include a candle lighting, special music, readings from the “Imagining the Holocaust” writing competition, and a recitation of the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer of mourning and remembrance for the dead. The event is sponsored by the Student Government Association and the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee.

“Lilly Ledbetter” continued from pg. 1

The past few months have brought changes to both the Library’s Circulation Department in Public Services. Susan Wiggins, formerly an evening circulation and reserves assistant, has been hired as a technical services assistant whose primary duties will include cataloging. Wiggins fills a position vacated by the retirement of Kaye Batchelor, which occurred in December of last year.

Toby Falk, a Michigan native with a law enforcement background who most recently held a position as an evening dispatcher for the Jacksonville Police Department, has replaced Wiggins at the circulation desk.

See the next issue of the Cole Train for profiles on these members of the Library’s team.

A Special Thanks for Your Feedback

This Spring the Library conducted a university-wide web-based survey in order to measure the effectiveness of its services and resources and to provide Library users with the opportunity to weigh in and share their thoughts about the Library. Respondents provided valuable feedback on everything from Library hours to collections to the Library’s web presence. The Library will use this information for assessment and future planning.

To show its appreciation for those who filled out the survey, the Library gave away GoPro cameras to three randomly selected participants from undergraduate, graduate, and faculty/staff respondents. Dr. April Walker, Ms. Kayla McCay, and Ms. Morgan Cawthorne (pictured, left, with Dean of Library Services John-Bauer Graham) were the drawing winners.

According to Douglas (Doug) Taylor, the Library’s Business and Social Sciences Librarian, changes have been incredible since he started at the Library in the spring of 1982.

"Things are really great compared to what it used to be," he said. "Staff had typewriters, only receiving computers in the late 1980s. Database access was limited, and librarians did research for students or faculty, who had to pay for the time used. Most things were done manually," said Taylor. The card catalog was located in the basement. Library staff had to take the elevator down to the ground floor, look up information, and return to the subject floors to locate a book.

Researchers used print periodical indexes, such as the Reader’s Guide to Periodical Literature. Once the journal or magazine article was located, “it was not uncommon for pages to be torn out,” Taylor said. The Library had space to store only a limited number of periodicals, unlike today’s databases that offer users thousands of titles.

Of his retirement in May, Taylor said it will be odd not to be working, as it has been 50 years since he started working in high school. “On my first full day off, I will get up before sunrise and sit on the deck with a cup of coffee and watch the sun rise. It’s the beginning of a new life.” Taylor foresees plenty to do, including travel to visit family and a “Honey Do” list that he is sure his wife is compiling. Other plans include research into family genealogy, using the HCL as a regular patron, and “whatever else that will keep me out of trouble.”

“We will like most is to be on my own schedule, not someone else’s.”

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Taylor previously worked at the Cheaha Regional Library. “It was a long bus ride when I came down for that interview.” The library system, with its three employees, was located in the Aniston Public Library and served five counties. Taylor was the Reference/Interlibrary Loan Librarian. According to Douglas (Doug) Taylor, the Library’s Business and Social Sciences Librarian, changes have been incredible since he started at the Library in the spring of 1982.

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His library career began in a public library, and he moved on to a college library as an undergraduate student at Youngstown State University. Following graduation, he served two years active duty in the Navy before enrolling in a library school program.

After earning his MS in Library Science at the University of Kentucky, Taylor wanted to leave Youngstown due to bad economic conditions in the area and make a fresh start. He and his wife Joella, whom he met at UK, moved to Alabama to begin his career as a Librarian, and have been here ever since.

A reception to mark Taylor’s retirement will be held May 28 from 2-4 p.m. in room 1101B on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library.