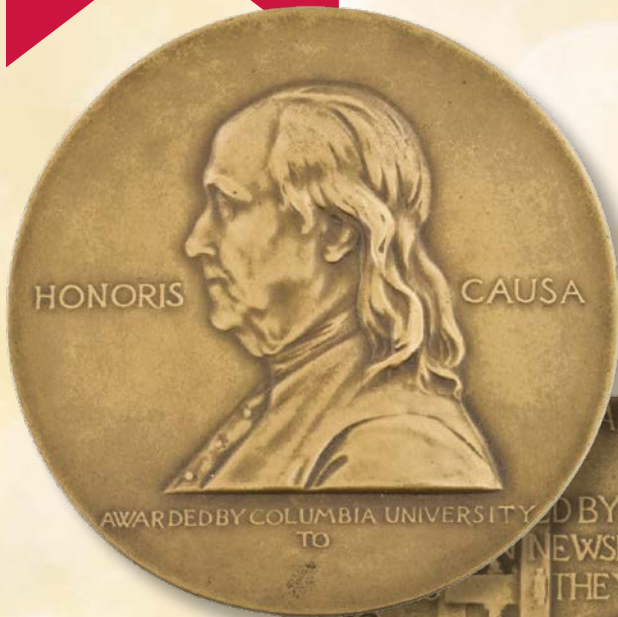


FALL  
2024  
V.38



EXCELLENCE  
REWARDED

>> see page 4

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BEYOND  
THE PAGES



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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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**Digital Library of Georgia**  
<https://dlg.usg.edu>

**UGA Press**  
<https://ugapress.org>

**The Georgia Review**  
<https://thegeorgiareview.com/>

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**Cover Image:** A Pulitzer Prize medal and an Emmy award. See story on pp. 4-6. >>

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**A Message from the University Librarian**



Greetings, and welcome to the Fall 2024 issue of *Beyond the Pages*.

Over the course of their long histories, the UGA Press (est. 1938) and the *Georgia Review* (est. 1947) have contributed much to our University and the broader reading public, creating excellent published work and garnering countless accolades. This year, however, they reached the pinnacle of literary publishing when Brandon Som’s *Tripas* (co-published by the Review and Press) won the **2024 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry**. Congratulations to Brandon, and to the Georgia Review and UGA Press, for this remarkable achievement (see pp. 4-5). The Press and Review have been part of the UGA Libraries since 2010, and we’re proud of their accomplishments. >>

Looking to a different media form, *INSIDE the Warren Commission* is a documentary film presented by the UGA Libraries on the blue-ribbon commission charged by President Johnson to investigate President Kennedy’s assassination. Award-winning filmmaker (and Libraries’ Board of Visitors member) **Bill VanDerKloot** won a **Southeastern Emmy Award** for the project. *INSIDE the Warren Commission* aired nationwide last November to mark the 60th anniversary of the assassination. The documentary advances the Russell Library’s political history mission, and the Russell Foundation and individual donors made the film possible (see pp. 5-6). >>

UGA students responded immediately and enthusiastically to **the new McBay Science Library 4th floor renovation**. Along with a wealth of scientific books and journals, the space is designed for intensive, quiet study with seating for 250 students, including 25 new (very popular) study rooms. It is a great location for students to “hunker down” to work on projects and prepare for tests; and it has been gratifying to see how quickly students fully inhabited the space when it opened in August.

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies celebrates its **50th anniversary** this year with a top-notch slate of events that we will report on in the spring newsletter. We’re excited about the effort to build an endowment to support and sustain the Russell Library’s outstanding oral history program capturing the accounts of those who have shaped Georgia politics and public policy in the 20th and 21st centuries (see pp. 14-15). >>

We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Mary Socci** as the new executive director for the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW). Dr. Socci leads our efforts to support interdisciplinary discovery and learning at this site of singular historical, archaeological, and ecological significance (see p. 8). >>

The Hargrett Library’s exhibition drawn from photographer Jason Thrasher’s book *Athens Potluck*, tells a wonderfully organic story of the Athens music scene. Well over 400 attended the lively opening reception. Keep an eye out for Thrasher’s next book, *Murmur Trestle*, published by the UGA Press featuring a structure well known to R.E.M. fans.

By year’s end, the UGA Special Collections Libraries look forward to bringing a new Georgia music exhibition to the Classic Center’s Akins Ford Arena (currently under construction). The exhibition will feature materials from UGA’s Georgia Music Hall of Fame collection and our other music collections, while providing valuable hands-on learning opportunities for students who will help to research and design the museum experience.

Many thanks to all for your support of the UGA Libraries!

*P. Toby Graham*



# EXCELLENCE REWARDED

By Jason Bennett, Leandra Nessel and Camie Williams

The summer of 2024 was awards season for the University of Georgia Press, *The Georgia Review*, and the UGA Libraries. Two projects, one a joint publication of the UGA Press and *The Georgia Review*, and the other a documentary drawing from the archive of the Russell Library, have received recognition for their excellence.

*Tripas*, by Brandon Som, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and *INSIDE the Warren Commission*, a documentary by filmmaker Bill VanDerKloot, was selected as a Southeast Emmy Award recipient.

“It’s been an exciting year for all three organizations,” said Dr. Toby Graham, University Librarian and Associate Provost. “The Pulitzers are the most widely-recognized U.S. awards given for arts, letters, and journalism; and our southeastern Emmy recognizes the best in regional television programming. To have this work acknowledged by these prestigious organizations is a tribute to all parties involved.”

## UGA PRESS/GEORGIA REVIEW BOOK WINS PULITZER

On Monday, May 6, 2024, Columbia University announced the winners of the Pulitzer Prize across all categories. *Tripas* by Brandon Som, co-published by *The Georgia Review* and the University of Georgia Press, was selected as the Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry.



Released in March 2023, the poems in *Tripas* are built out of a multicultural, multigenerational childhood home, in which Som celebrates his Chicana grandmother, who worked nights on the assembly line at Motorola, and his Chinese American father and grandparents, who ran the family corner store. Invested in the circuitry and circuitous routes of migration and labor, Som’s lyricism weaves together the narratives of his transnational communities, bringing to light what is overshadowed in the reckless transit of global capitalism and imagining a world otherwise.

“Som’s poems refuse to confine themselves or their forms to any one thing,” Stephanie Burt, literary critic, poet and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English at Harvard University, wrote in her review for the *London Review of Books*. “All of them enfold and link multiple topics, injustice among them. He writes, as well, to honour people who endured, who made their own way.”

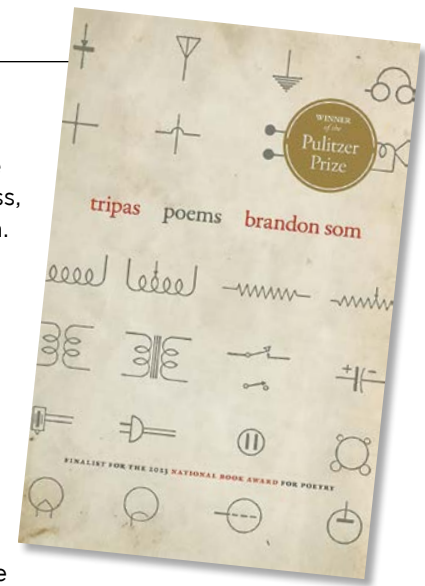


Gerald Maa, Director and Editor of *The Georgia Review*, was ecstatic about the news. “We’re very excited for Brandon’s triumph. Reading these poems feels like being part of a lively, intimate conversation. I’m thrilled that this award will bring even more readers to this book.”



▲ Pictured left to right: Gerald Maa, director of *The Georgia Review*, Lisa Bayer, director of the UGA Press, Pulitzer winner Brandon Som, Provost Jack Hu, and University Librarian Toby Graham.

Lisa Bayer, Director of the University of Georgia Press, expressed her enthusiasm. “The act of literary book publishing—of making public the word—is deeply collaborative and hopeful. We are grateful to have partnered with the extraordinary poet Brandon Som and the brilliant team at *The Georgia Review* on this remarkable collection.”



In an event co-sponsored by the Review and Lostintheletters, Som visited Atlanta and Athens for readings along with poet Siwar Masannat. These readings were part of the Asian American Literary Festival that runs throughout the month of September with coordinated events happening across the world.

## DOCUMENTARY WINS EMMY AWARD

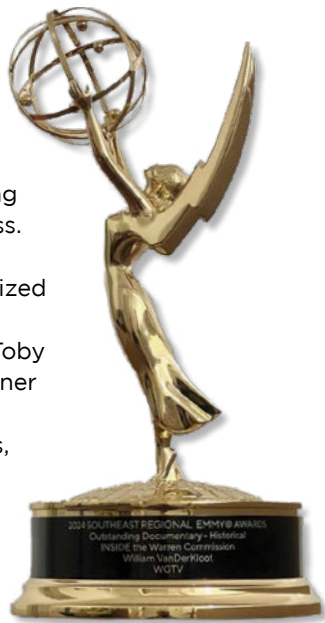
A documentary presented by the University of Georgia Libraries has earned a regional Emmy Award.

*INSIDE The Warren Commission*, a project that has aired on public broadcasting across the United States throughout the past year as part of the 60th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was selected as a Southeast Emmy Award recipient.

The documentary delves into the inner workings of the Warren Commission, the blue-ribbon Congressional body charged to investigate Kennedy’s assassination.

“The UGA Russell Library’s mission includes documenting and educating the public on the history of Congress. This project advances that aim, illuminating one of the most scrutinized government investigations of the 20th century,” University Librarian Toby Graham said. “We are proud to partner with Bill VanDerKloot to bring this documentary to the public airwaves, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved Emmy.”

VanDerKloot is a Peabody Award and previous Emmy Award winning filmmaker, as well as a

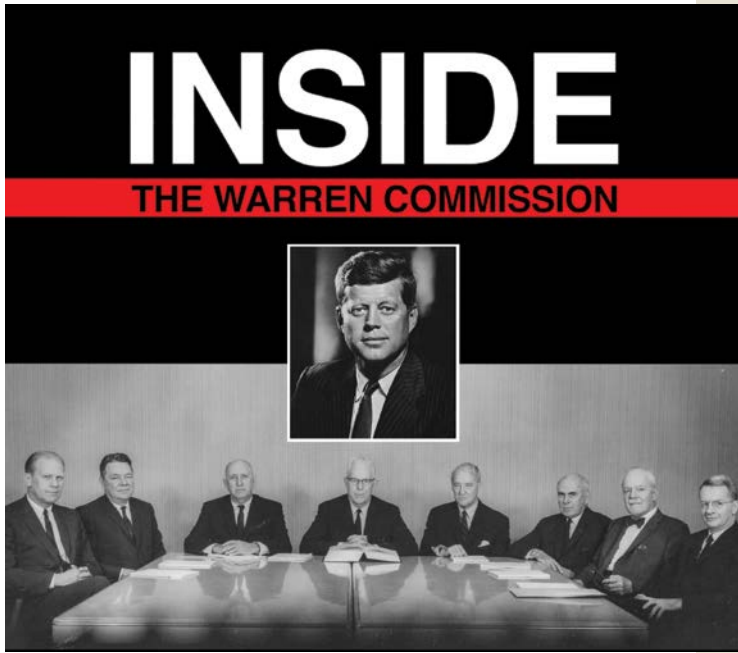


continued on page 6 >>



*We are proud to partner with Bill VanDerKloot to bring this documentary to the public airwaves, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved Emmy.*





longstanding member of the UGA Libraries Board of Visitors. Charles Campbell, a former top aide to U.S. Sen. Richard Russell, served as co-executive producer of the film, along with Graham. Atlanta broadcast journalist Monica Pearson narrated the film, which also includes interviews with former CBS news anchor Roger Mudd, former Russell Press secretary and business executive Earl Leonard, and former President Johnson special assistant and former CNN president Tom Johnson, among others. The UGA Special Collections Libraries will archive the full interviews.

The film includes extensive research from original documents and footage preserved within the Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection, two of UGA's Special Collections Libraries.

The UGA Libraries was awarded a Southeast Emmy in 2010 as a producing partner for the project *Andrew Young: How We Got Over*. Footage from Brown Media Archives has been included in numerous award-winning documentaries, including *Summer of Soul* (2021), which received Academy and Peabody awards, as well as Peabody-winners *Crip Camp* (2020), *Mr. SOUL* (2021), and *My Name is Pauli Murray* (2021).

**The Libraries appreciates the support of the Russell Foundation and the following donors who made *INSIDE the Warren Commission* possible:**

Charles Campbell, John T. Marshall, Benjamin McElroy, John McMullan, Robert Schramm, SEDA Vale Foundation (Clyde Shepherd), Shepherd Foundation (Alana Shepherd, Linda Shepherd), Rogers Wade

## Q&A with Filmmaker Bill VanDerKloot

- 1. How did you get the idea for this documentary?** I attended a presentation at the UGA Special Collections Library given by Charles Campbell, a former member of the Senator Russell's staff. The presentation included items from the collection that showcased Senator Russell and his service on the Warren Commission. I was fascinated by the presentation and all the elements of the story, especially the extemporaneous notes made by Senator Russell during the Commission's meetings, and the telephone recordings of President Johnson. I left the presentation excited that I had the kernel of an idea for a documentary film.
- 2. Why do you think it's important to tell this story?** The assassination of President Kennedy changed the course of history, and its repercussions still echo today. It was the crime of the century, and the members of the Warren Commission were the chief detectives on the case. Despite challenges from within and without, the Commission's conclusions have stood the test of time.
- 3. How was your experience doing research in the Russell archives? Did you learn anything you didn't already know or suspect? Did you find something that surprised you?** The Russell archives is a treasure trove of historical documents, and the staff was extremely helpful. A special shout-out to Sheryl Vogt for her help on the project. One of the more interesting things I learned was the very close relationship between Richard Russell and Lyndon Johnson. It was more than a political alliance, it was deep friendship.
- 4. Why are archives like this important?** Collections in archives, like the Russell Library, comprise the puzzle pieces that form the initial draft of history. The preservation of these primary sources and their availability is a gift to future generations. Archives provide a better lens on which to view the past.
- 5. Why do you serve on the Libraries Board of Visitors?** UGA helped me develop in so many ways. During my time at the university, I spent more time in the Science Library than in any other building on campus. I've always loved and respected libraries, and I want to do what I can to help the UGA Libraries grow and thrive.

# EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

The Special Collections Exhibit Galleries featuring items on display from the collections of the Hargrett, Russell, and Brown Archives are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Be sure to check our social media regularly for gallery spotlights and virtual tours!

## SIDNEY SAMUEL THOMAS ROTUNDA

**Bulldog Olympians: A Celebration of UGA's Olympic History**  
Through December 2024



## HARGRETT RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

**Athens Potluck**  
Through December 2024

**Sustainable Fashion**  
January 2025 - June 2025



## RICHARD B. RUSSELL LIBRARY FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES

**"Precious, Almost Sacred": Voting Rights in America**  
Through May 2025



## WALTER J. BROWN MEDIA ARCHIVES AND PEABODY AWARDS COLLECTION

**Selections from the Steele Vintage Broadcast Microphone Collection**  
Ongoing

**Captain Planet**  
Opens October 2024 (ongoing)  
Marquee Cases, Ted Turner Exhibition Hallway

**For Your Consideration: Peabody Award Submission Materials**  
Through April 2025

**Georgia Music Spotlight: James Brown**  
Through September 2025

**Georgia Music Spotlight: Little Richard**  
Through September 2025







# New Executive Director at CREW

By Camie Williams

The University of Georgia Libraries welcomes archaeologist and researcher **Mary Socci** as executive director of the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe (CREW), an interdisciplinary research site on the Georgia coast.

In her position, Socci will facilitate research, education and public outreach at one of Georgia's most ecologically and historically significant sites. CREW, a unit of the UGA Libraries, supports the work of students and faculty who investigate a host of questions in a broad range of disciplines, including ecology, archaeology, history, geology, landscape architecture, historic preservation, environmental planning, and others.

With expertise in the archaeology and history of the coastal Southeast, and experience in ecological research, Socci previously served as assistant director of the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy and as cultural resource manager for Palmetto Bluff. Her career includes work in history, archaeology, and ecology. She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Princeton University, and a master's degree and PhD in anthropology from Yale University.

"Dr. Socci brings highly relevant experience and educational background, along with dedication to researching and

preserving the history and environment of the coastal Southeast," said Toby Graham, UGA associate provost and university librarian. "We look forward to a bright future for CREW under her leadership and with the support of the Wormsloe Foundation."

In addition to partnerships with academic units across UGA, Socci will work closely with Keeli Windham, president of the nonprofit Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.

CREW benefits from the generous and longstanding support of the Wormsloe Foundation and from Craig and Diana Barrow, who donated 15 acres on the Isle of Hope to create the Center in 2012.

"Being part of the University of Georgia and the Center for Research and Education at Wormsloe is a tremendous honor. I'm already enjoying getting to know the Barrow family who have been stewards of Wormsloe for generations and the graduate students and faculty who are exploring Wormsloe's natural and cultural environments," Socci said. "I am excited about being able to build new institutional partnerships and to develop and widely promote the research that takes place here at CREW."

## Faculty Fellows Named

Nine University of Georgia faculty members were selected as 2024 Special Collections Faculty Teaching Fellows, a program designed to help instructors incorporate UGA Libraries' archival materials and active learning strategies into courses.

**Elizabeth Saari Browne**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History, Lamar Dodd School of Art; **Barry Croom**, Professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences; **Michael Ford**, Instructor in the Department of English, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; **Robert Kaminski**, Lecturer in the John Munro Godfrey, Sr. Department of Economics, Terry College of Business; **Joseph Peragine**, Director and Professor of Painting and Drawing, Lamar Dodd School of Art; **Marni Shindelman**, Associate Professor of Photography, Lamar Dodd School of Art; **Andrew Walgren**, Lecturer in the Department of History, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; **Rebecca Wells**, Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, and the College of Public Health; and **Caroline Young**, Lecturer in the Department of English, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.



# GEORGIA WRITERS HALL OF FAME Inducts Three

By Camie Williams

A trailblazing newspaper founder, an influential teacher and poet, and an inspirational author/priest have been selected as the newest members of the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.

The 2024 class of honorees include **Robert Sengstacke Abbott**, publisher and editor of one of the most influential Black-owned newspapers of the early 20th century; **Wyatt Prunty**, founding director of the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Tennessee Williams Fellowship Program; and **Barbara Brown Taylor**, an author and Episcopal priest.

Prunty and Taylor were inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, administered by the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia, at separate events this fall. The celebration of Abbott's posthumous induction is slated for early 2025.



**Robert Sengstacke Abbott**, a native of St. Simons Georgia, founded *The Chicago Defender* in 1905, printing initially in a room in his boarding house and later growing the newspaper to a circulation of more than 500,000 Black readers weekly across the country. Abbott envisioned the paper as

a bastion for Black interests, nurturing the literary careers of renowned figures like Gwendolyn Brooks, Willard Motley, and Langston Hughes, who contributed to its poetry column. Through the newspaper, Abbott played a pivotal role in catalyzing the Great Migration, prompting a significant exodus of African Americans from the South to the North following World War I. In recognition of his civic engagement and leadership, Abbott was appointed by the Illinois Governor to the Chicago Commission on Race Relations in 1919. This commission, which later produced a groundbreaking report in 1922 on African American urban conditions, underscored Abbott's commitment to addressing social injustices.

While Abbott's celebration is expected to be held in February 2025, the details of the program have not been finalized at this time. Updates will be posted at [georgiawritershalloffame.org](http://georgiawritershalloffame.org) and on the Libraries events calendar at [libs.uga.edu/scl/about/events](http://libs.uga.edu/scl/about/events).

Poet **Wyatt Prunty**, who was born and raised in Athens, Georgia, is the Carlton Professor of English and Creative Writing (Emeritus) at Sewanee – the University of the South. He is the author of nine collections of poetry and served as editor of the essay collection *Sewanee Writers on Writing*. Notably, Prunty has worked throughout his career to nurture emerging literary talent, teaching writing seminars at Johns Hopkins, Louisiana State University, and Washington and Lee University, in addition to Suwanee. He is the founding director of the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Tennessee Williams Fellowship program, editor of the Johns Hopkins Poetry and Fiction Series, and former chancellor of the Fellowship of Southern Writers.



In celebration of his induction into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, Prunty held a reading of his work in the 3rd floor reading room of the University of Georgia Main Library.

**Barbara Brown Taylor**, an author and American Episcopal priest, served as a professor at Piedmont College, where she taught for 20 years until she retired in 2017. Ordained in 1984, Taylor was heavily involved in the Episcopal Church, serving as rector of Grace-Cavalry Episcopal Church in Clarkesville, Georgia. Her literary endeavors predominantly explore spirituality, faith, and religion, crafted in a manner accessible to a wide audience. In her memoir, *Holy Envy*, she shares poignant moments of encountering diverse faiths and cultures, fostering a spirit of curiosity and mutual respect among her students. In 2014, Taylor was named one of TIME's 100 most influential people for her profound insights into faith and her ability to inspire believers and nonbelievers alike.



For her Georgia Writers Hall of Fame celebration, Taylor will be joined on stage by Widespread Panic's John Bell to discuss writing, inspiration, and living in a small rural town in northeast Georgia. The program, originally scheduled for September 26, 2024, had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene. Be sure to check the event calendar for a new date in 2025.

The Georgia Writers Hall of Fame honors Georgia writers, past and present, whose work reflects the character of the state – its land and people. Abbott, Prunty, and Taylor join a group of more than 75 writers, some of whom are recipients of prestigious creative awards such as the Pulitzer Prize, the Academy Awards, and the Nobel Peace Prize.

For the full list of honorees,  
visit [georgiawritershalloffame.org](http://georgiawritershalloffame.org)



“The 5th Beatle,” “The 12th Man”:  
*Remembering Special Collections Libraries Volunteer*  
**BILL HUGUNINE** **By Jill Severn**



*Full confession—I have begun this article about ten times, and, each time, I scrap it because it is not what I want to say—what we all want to say about the loss of our dear friend and volunteer Bill Hugunine who passed away on July 7, 2024. It is hard to sum up all that Bill meant for us here in special collections. His work is everywhere in the building and his good humor and belly laughs still echo.*

In 2009, following a lengthy and successful career in cargo shipping insurance, Bill Hugunine and his wife, Fran, moved south from New York to be nearer to their kids. Fran and he played tennis, and that is where they first crossed paths with Jan Hebbard, exhibits coordinator for the special collections library. He met Jamie Jedlicka and Ruta Abolins, special collections cataloger and media archives director, respectively, at the local dog park. In retirement, Bill was seeking a new project and a chance to

volunteer. We at Special Collections Libraries were eager for great volunteers to help with the mountain of public tours and research projects generated by the opening of the new Russell Libraries Building.

Bill jumped in with both feet—joining the first cohort of special collections volunteer docents and specializing in tours of the Russell Library gallery and the University of Georgia Athletics Association collections. He also helped welcome hundreds of 8th graders from Clarke County schools who toured the special collections galleries as part of the Experience UGA program. Each fall, Bill also assisted Jason Hasty with his popular Friday football tours.

“Bill was a docent before we even launched a docent program,” said Jan Hebbard. “He was a sponge, soaking up knowledge of every aspect of our building from the moment he began volunteering. He then became the first person to sign up to help with any tour, no matter the audience, and gave visitors an inside look at our exhibitions. He was a perfect combination of welcoming and knowledgeable, and helped to shape the docent program from the very beginning.”

Bill also began volunteering in the Russell Library where he conducted research for many of its large-scale, original exhibitions. His approach was methodical. He read deeply on the subject before progressing collection-by-collection, box-by-box, folder-by-folder, and page-by-page searching for the very best materials to illuminate the exhibit topic. From 2012-2023, Bill worked on every exhibit created by the Russell Library—reviewing almost 3000 boxes of materials in the process. Even our longest serving staff members cannot equal Bill’s record.



▲ Bill loved doing research and spent many happy hours in the special collections library reading room.

Although he loved the thrill of chasing the next great find for all the exhibit projects we undertook here in Russell, it is fair to say Bill’s two favorites were *Seeing Georgia*, our exhibition on tourism, and *Wrestling Temptation*, an exhibit exploring efforts to control alcohol in Georgia. Bill selected most of the materials for *Seeing Georgia* and scouted key items farther afield. He joined us on trips to local collectors and helped pack up antique refrigerators, gas pumps, barrels, buckets, and more in the high heat of summer. Bill’s greatest research triumph came with his work on the prohibition exhibit. Using his meticulous research approach, he paged the diary of Marcus Wayland Beck. Thinking that Beck might have some notes about legal issues related to alcohol prohibition, Bill learned instead about Beck’s thirty-year battle to quell his urge to drink. This diary became one of the most compelling stories and artifacts in the exhibition—all thanks to Bill.

While continuing his exhibit research and work as a docent, after talking with Ruta, Bill knew the Brown Media Archives could use some help processing media collections and arranged to come in for a second day of the week to help with this work.

“Bill loved the Special Collections Libraries, and we were glad to have him. He was always enthusiastic and ready to dive into whatever project we had going,” Ruta said.

Bill really loved people and enjoyed working with students. He helped to select materials and sometimes assisted with the encounters we designed for students. His favorite class experience took place in the fall of 2016 when he joined a cast of students and library volunteers for a live performance based on the true story of Georgia’s infamous three governors controversy at special collections. One of the Libraries faculty teaching fellows, Dr. Amma Ghartey Tagoe Kootin and her class on “devised theater” created the performance using Russell Library collections as source materials. One of the scenes featured a reporter reading scandal-related headlines into a radio microphone. Bill volunteered and performed with gusto.

It is easy to get caught up in all that Bill accomplished during his time with special collections, but some of the most meaningful memories that we will all treasure are the little things that made him such an amazing colleague and friend. He made a point of getting to know the student assistants with whom he came into contact. He checked with the facilities team to see if they needed help setting up for events or gallery transitions. He told some of the best stories and he was a wonderful listener, too. We will miss him.



▲ Bill was instrumental in the selection of the design and content of the *Seeing Georgia* exhibit and his knowledge of the materials resulted in engaging and informative tours for students and other visitors.



▲ Bill, playing the part of a reporter during a reenactment of the Georgia’s three governors controversy.

“*He was a perfect combination of welcoming and knowledgeable, and helped to shape the docent program from the very beginning.*”



# Athens Potluck

By Jan Hebbard and Camie Williams



A record crowd of more than 400 guests enjoyed live music and refreshments as they explored the newly opened exhibit.

Questions scrawled in marker onto a white record sleeve as well as on the vinyl record, a hand-painted message on the back of a shovel, a battered straw hat with fraying pink trim, and photographs of pets. These items and dozens more add to the character of Athens' music community on display this fall at the UGA Special Collections Libraries along with colorful portraits of the artists taken at their homes.

The free exhibit is a three-dimensional portrayal of photographer and UGA alum Jason Thrasher's 2017 art book *Athens Potluck*, capturing the behind-the-scenes lives of musical artists who have called the Georgia town home. It features an eclectic array of musicians that rocked the stages in town and around the world over decades, starting with Laura Carter of Elf Power and other members of the

E6 Collective and including R.E.M legend Michael Stipe and Pylon's Vanessa Briscoe Hay, as well as performers that contribute to the indie, punk, country, and traditional old-time genres.

The exhibit opened on August 8th to a record setting crowd of more than 400 people, including many of the 33 musicians featured in *Potluck*. Attendance was a clear sign that people love Athens and music, and maybe nothing more than those two things together.

"It's an organic mixture of the music scene, but it's not just about big names," Thrasher said, explaining that he chose the first subject, Carter, and then each musician suggested the next to be featured, resulting in a mix of higher-profile

and lesser-known artists from the dynamic community. "It was my first time learning about some of these performers, and it's been amazing to introduce people to all these phenomenal musicians."

For Thrasher, who graduated from UGA's Lamar Dodd School of Art with a bachelor of fine arts degree in 1997, moving through the project from photographer to book editor to curator has been an exciting creative challenge. "The processes are different, but telling the story of Athens' music community is always fun and inspirational and a testament to the great people of this town," he said. "It's an honor to share their stories at the Special Collections Libraries."

The collaboration with Thrasher grew out of his participation in the 2022 exhibit *Georgia On My Mind: Finding Belonging in Music History*. "In creating a listening room for that exhibit, which occupied the same space where *Potluck* is now, I reached out to Jason," said Jan Hebbard, exhibition coordinator. "I was a fan of his book, and asked if he would loan us some of the images. Once installed he came to see the show, and I sold him on the idea of bringing it to life as an exhibit." From there it was a matter of fitting the pieces together – searching through the music holdings at Special Collections to find connections to the *Potluck* musicians and reaching out to the musicians directly to secure loaned items that could bring their photographs to life.

With musical instruments, fashion, art pieces, and memorabilia from the Georgia Music Collections at UGA Libraries and on loan from musicians, the exhibit serves as a preview of the upcoming Special Collections Libraries display at the Akins Ford Arena at the Classic Center, which opens later this year with an inaugural performance by the B-52s. The arena will host an extensive Georgia Music Collections display on its main concourse level, with Thrasher's *Potluck* photographs highlighting the suite level.

"We have set out to build the largest and most diverse collection of Georgia music ephemera to document Georgia's music history" said Ryan Lewis, Georgia Music Curator. "Exhibits like *Athens Potluck* and our partnership with Akins Ford Arena at the Classic Center give the public new ways to access and connect with this history."

*Athens Potluck* will remain on display through Dec. 20 at the UGA Special Collections Building on the University of Georgia campus. Galleries are open to visitors for free from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, with extended evening hours until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information or to schedule a tour, visit [libs.uga.edu/scl](https://libs.uga.edu/scl).



Athens Potluck photographer Jason Thrasher curated the exhibit, which will be up through December 20th.



Musician Jason Griffin posing in front of his picture and case displaying items he loaned for the exhibit.



Patterson Hood with his wife Rebecca Hood exploring the show. Hood, of Drive By Truckers, is one of the musicians featured in the exhibit.



## STORIES TO TELL: Russell Library Creates Endowment to Preserve and Grow Oral History Program

by Ashton Ellett

Allan Nevins, a former journalist and Columbia University history professor, wrote in 1950, “Every community possesses men and women who, though they often do not realize it themselves, have stories to tell which posterity will find significant and engrossing.” Oral history is, therefore, the accumulated stories and reminiscences of events and experiences—ranging from the historic to the mundane—that are preserved for future use. That is the essential mission of the Russell Oral History Program, and it needs your support to fulfill this mission and reach its fullest potential.

The Russell Library has been collecting oral histories since 1971—more than three years before its June 1974 dedication. Originally interested in capturing the “living histories” of prominent Georgians like Senator Richard B. Russell, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and agribusiness leader D.W. Brooks, the Oral History Program shifted focus and intensified collecting in the mid-2000s. This coincided

with the launch of “Reflections on Georgia Politics” with Bob Short, which offered an insider’s view of Georgia government, campaigns, and elections. The past decade has witnessed a flurry of activity as the Oral History Program has launched several new collecting initiatives. Increasingly, interviews are videorecorded and made available online via YouTube and Kaltura—part of the Oral History Program’s commitment to preserving the stories that make Georgia history come alive.

Currently home to more than 1,600 interviews, the Oral History Program’s strengths include Georgia government and politics, local and UGA history, the African American experience, Georgia music, and more. It also enjoys a national reputation as a leader in audio and video interviews, digital preservation and access, and community engagement. From concept to capture, archiving to access, The Russell Library has established Georgia’s premier oral history program.



▲ Joyce Carter Stevens at her campaign office in 1984. A candidate for the Public Service Commission, Joyce was the first woman to run in a statewide general election.

“ I am humbled and honored to initiate this endowment to support the Russell Library’s Oral History Program. I know that John would have supported this program because it reflects our lives—rural, urban, and political—and contributes so much to our state. I appreciate all who have already stepped up to contribute and thank those who will in the future.

—Joyce Carter Stevens  
Good Hope, GA

The Russell Library has recently established an endowment to ensure the Oral History Program continues to grow, evolve, and provide meaningful content to the communities it serves. Joyce Stevens, managing partner of Stonebridge & Stevens Properties, provided the lead gift. W. Russell King, retired senior vice president of international relations and government affairs at Freeport-McMoRan, has recently matched that impressive gift. T. Rogers Wade, Russell Foundation trustee emeritus, and Jay Morgan, founder of the J.L. Morgan Company, have also contributed generously.

With your support, the Russell Library and the Oral History Program will continue providing unique and enlightening opportunities for research and instruction, community engagement, and student success.

To learn more about the Oral History Program and view past oral history interviews, please visit [georgiaoralhistory.libs.uga.edu](http://georgiaoralhistory.libs.uga.edu). For more information about contributing to the Oral History Program endowment, contact Ashton Ellett at [elletttag@uga.edu](mailto:elletttag@uga.edu) or Lee Snelling at [snelling@uga.edu](mailto:snelling@uga.edu).



▲ Hugh Cates (L), a Southern Bell manager and secretary of the Richard B. Russell Foundation, interviews former President Gerald Ford in 1978 as Russell Foundation chair and former U.S. representative Phil Landrum looks on.

“ The Oral History Program is a powerful way to remember and understand politics and history as it was happening. It has my endorsement and strong support.

—W. Russell King  
Arlington, VA



▲ Legislative aides W. Russell King (L) and Randy Nuckolls (M) confer with U.S. Senator Herman Talmadge in July 1979.

“ There is written history, and then there are the actual voices that made history. Titans of American politics like Senator Richard Russell and President Lyndon B. Johnson may be gone, but the Oral History Program at the Russell Library gives voice to how life-changing decisions were contemplated and enacted. The lessons are endless!

—James L. “Jay” Morgan, III  
Atlanta, GA



▲ Jay Morgan (R) shares a lighthearted moment with House Minority Leader and future U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson.



# American Congress Digital Archives Portal: Enhancing Access to Congressional History

By Robert Lay

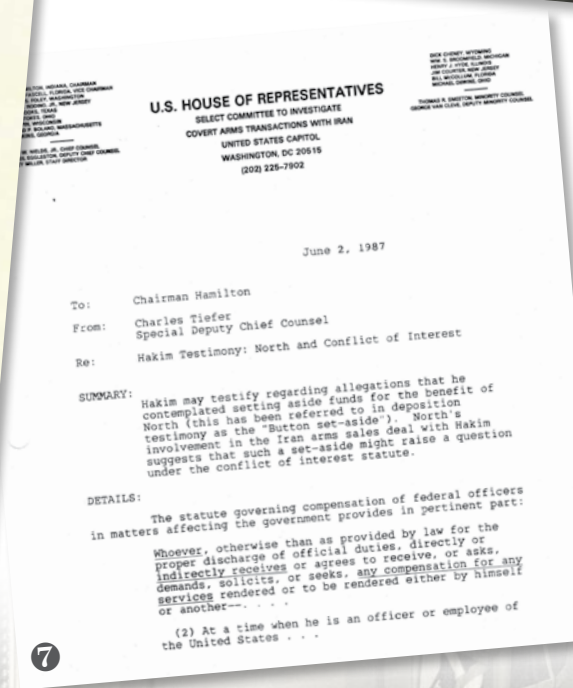
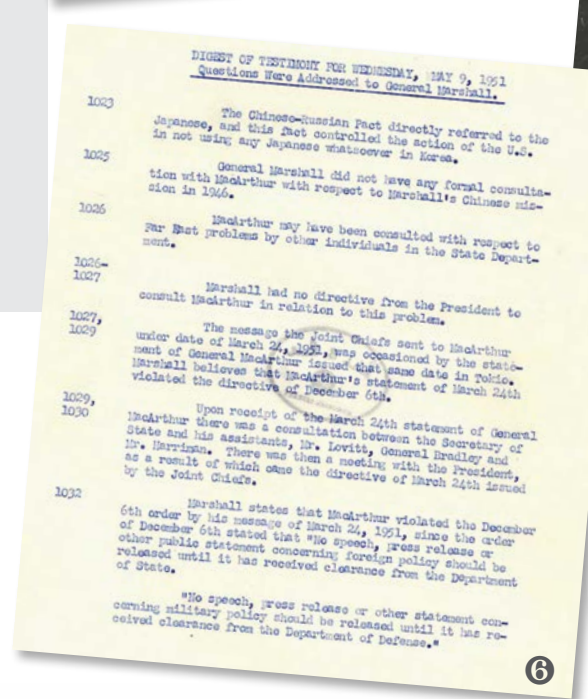
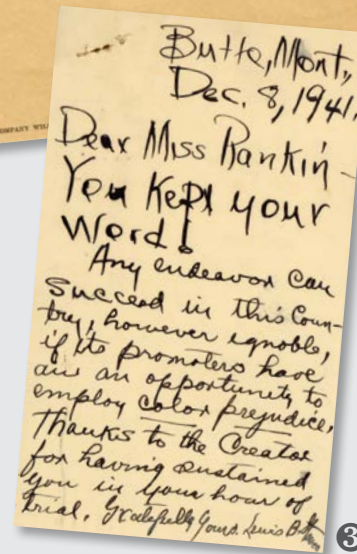
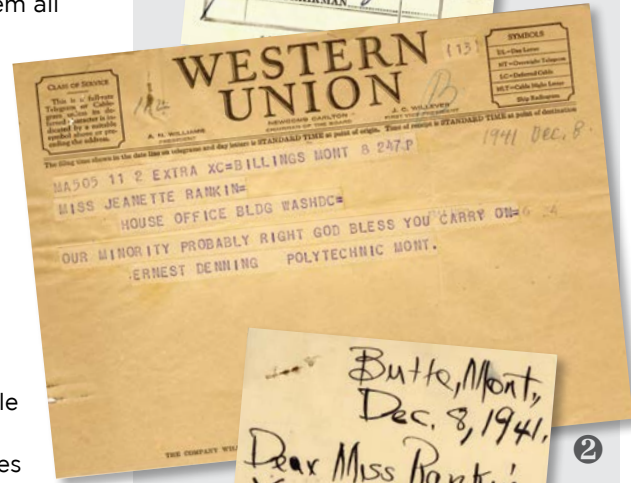
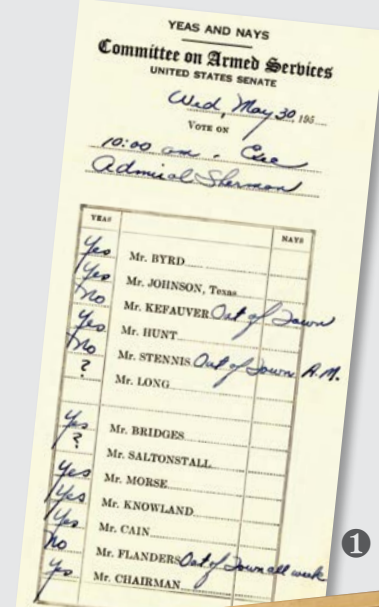
The two challenges confronting researchers doing work with congressional archives are their size and geographic distribution. Researchers frequently need to make use of multiple members' collections, leading to huge travel costs and making them all but impossible to access for students without a travel stipend. The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, along with our sister institutions in the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, has long tried to address this challenge. Now, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and congressionally-directed spending, we are doing just that through the American Congress Digital Archives Portal.

The Portal is the product of a consortium of congressional research centers—the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, the Hawai'i Congressional Papers Collection, the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, the Dirksen Congressional Center, and the Russell Library—led by the West Virginia University Libraries. The Portal's goal is to bring together digitized documents from congressional archives to make them discoverable and usable online. At present, there are nearly 10,000 documents available on the Portal, representing the period 1899-2015 and a topical range from the armed services to water resources development.

This project began in 2021 with a one-year NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources planning grant. Two years later, the NEH awarded the Portal an implementation grant of \$350,000, which was distributed to the partner institutions as subgrants to pay for production and description of records. During this implementation phase, running 2023-2025, sub-awardees were asked to contribute records documenting the functions of Congress—the legislative process, oversight hearings, etc.—and historical events and persons in the history of Congress. The \$26,000 sub-award given to the Russell Library enabled us to hire two UGA students to digitize documents from the papers of Senators Richard B. Russell, Herman Talmadge, and Max Cleland; Congressmen Ed Jenkins and Charles Norwood, and Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin.

This past March, we learned that the Congress Portal had received \$1.5 million in congressionally directed spending to support and expand access to these records through 2026. The additional funding will allow the Russell Library to improve access to our collections, particularly our documentation of the Civil Rights Movement. For the next phase we will be adding additional staff and student employees to digitize and describe constituent correspondence, utilizing AI tools to create machine-readable transcripts and curating a database of historical correspondence.

The American Congress Digital Archives Portal is an idea that has been decades in the making. With continued support, we believe it will be a valuable resource for scholars and students and be a key part of documenting the People's house in the 21st century. The Portal can be accessed online at [congressarchives.org](http://congressarchives.org).



4 Herman Talmadge (left) smokes a cigar while reviewing documents during the Watergate hearings. Also pictured, Senator Daniel Inouye. Herman E. Talmadge Collection.

5 Senator Richard B. Russell talking to reporters after the morning session of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees at which General MacArthur testified. With him is Senator Alexander Wiley, May 3, 1951. Photo credit: The New York Times. Richard B. Russell, Jr. Collection.

6 Digest of Testimony, Wednesday, May 9, 1951, Questions Addressed to General Marshall. Richard B. Russell, Jr. Collection.

7 Report from Charles Tiefer on Hakim testimony, North, and conflicts of interest. Ed L. Jenkins Papers.

(Below) Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Left to right: Styles Bridges, John McClellan, Lister Hill, Sam Ervin, Henry "Scoop" Jackson, Stuart Symington, John C. Stennis, Richard B. Russell (center), Leverett Saltonstall, Homer Ferguson(?), Francis Case, Gordon Allott(?), and Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Richard B. Russell, Jr. Collection.

Question marks (?) indicate uncertainty about the identity of the individual. Identification of people in this photo is based on members of the Armed Services Committee during this time period.



1 Yeas and Nays for vote taken in the Committee on Armed Services executive meeting, May 30, 1951. Richard B. Russell, Jr. Collection.

2 Telegram to Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin praising her vote against the United States' declaration of war against Japan. Jeannette Rankin Papers.

3 Letter to Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin thanking her for voting against the United States' declaration of war against Japan. Jeannette Rankin Papers.



# LOVE FREE OR DIE:

## Screening Showcases Important History

By Mary Miller

As the Peabody Awards Archivist and Metadata Librarian for Brown Media Archives, my work is most often solitary: I create and process the metadata, or descriptive information, that allows us to organize and provide database access to our collections. But, on occasion, I get to step from behind my desk and interact with humans! Sometimes this is in the role of instructor, as I teach UGA students how to find and use our holdings. Other times I've been able to connect with the public at our outreach screenings and panel discussions. I love the material we collect and am always excited to be able to share it with others, but no other event has meant as much to me as the June 4<sup>th</sup> screening of Macky Alston's film "Love Free or Die" at Ciné, our local arts movie house.

"Love Free or Die" is the story of Gene Robinson, the first openly gay person to be ordained a bishop in any Christian denomination. Since its 2012 premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, the film has been screened thousands of times. But the 2024 Brown Media Archives screening was special, because it brought together both the film's director, Macky Alston, and its subject, Bishop Gene Robinson.

"Love Free or Die" follows Bishop Gene to England, where he is excluded from the 2008 Lambeth Conference, a gathering of the world's Anglican bishops. There, we see him confronted during mass by a motorcyclist who held his helmet as though it contained a gun or a bomb. As Alston told us after the screening, as he continued to film the unfolding events, he wondered if he was about to record a murder. In the end, the man was led away without further incident, but the violence of his words, as they echoed in the theater, were powerful enough to rattle the sold-out Ciné audience some fourteen years later. And the film captured the pain and grief on Bishop Gene's face, which were devastating to view.

In a 2012 interview, Robinson explained why he was willing to expose himself to hate, ridicule, and physical danger: "The church asks its clergy to climb into the pulpit every week and call people to a life of integrity, but for countless generations it's asked its gay and lesbian clergy to live a life without integrity while calling on other people to do it, and that just seems crazy to me." The film shows Bishop Gene's courage rewarded at the Episcopal Church's 2009 General



▲ Filmmaker Macky Alston, Bishop Gene Robinson, and media archivist Mary Miller participated in a Q&A following the screening.



Convention, where leaders voted to recognize same-sex unions (where legal) and to allow gay clergy to become bishops.

Watching the film was in and of itself obviously a powerful experience for many audience members, as laughter, gasps, and applause were heard throughout. But the audience fell silent – not passively quiet, but deliberately hushed – when Bishop Gene and Alston took the stage at its conclusion. When asked if there were anything he had to edit out of the film that he wishes he could have included, Alston mentioned the secret meetings between Bishop Gene and many of the bishops attending the Lambeth Conference. Though sympathetic to his position, and in some cases, sharing it, these men were unable or unwilling to take a public stand to support him.

In the film, we see Bishop Gene handing out water to celebrants in a New York City gay pride parade. He tells those who will serve alongside him that "This cup of water is about justice. ... We have never made progress in either our religious institutions or in the culture unless

someone has been willing to pay the price." In discussing his career since the film, Bishop Gene described serving at the interment of Matthew Shepard's ashes at the National Cathedral. Shepard's parents had waited twenty years after his murder to find a place where they believed his remains would be safe from desecration; Robinson described with humility his gratitude at being able to assist in providing them with that safe place.

"How do you experience hate without becoming a hater?" we asked Bishop Gene in the Q&A. After careful consideration, he explained that you don't have to like someone to love them. There are some, he said, that he does not like, but he recognizes everyone equally as children of God and as such he loves them.

Brown Media Archives is home to the Macky Alston Collection, including his production materials for "Love Free or Die." You can read Macky's article, "Exploring the Past, Preserving for the Future" in the Fall 2023 edition of *Beyond the Pages*.



# FREE the TAPES HOME MOVIE EDITION

By Thomas May

This spring, the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection (BMA) hosted the first-ever “Free the Tapes” event and digitized over 300 items for community members at no cost. To gauge community interest in such a service and to include a diverse range of materials, the organizers designated this first instance as the “Home Movie Edition” of Free the Tapes, actively encouraging patrons to bring in their forgotten MiniDV, VHS, Video8, or even 16mm films that contained cherished memories they wanted to see once more. Previously BMA has hosted many Home Movie Days encouraging community members from across the state at various venues to bring in their home movies to be seen on screen because most people lack equipment to view them any longer.

In fact, most of the work done by the digitization unit of BMA, the same people that digitized the items for “Free the Tapes,” are requests from students, professors, and other researchers to view an item in BMA’s own holdings that can no longer simply be checked out and played in a personal VCR. Often these requests are producers searching for footage to include in a documentary or commercial work, and that licensing revenue affords BMA the opportunity to turn around and offer community services like “Free the Tapes.”

Each person could bring up to five items and hand them off to staff on one of several drop-off days that were held at the Athens-Clarke County Public Library and the UGA Special Collections Library. In total, seventy-five community members brought items in to be digitized. Over the next several months, digitization unit staff used equipment in the lab to digitize each item, meaning they created a file that can be played back on virtually any device and that is easier to preserve for the future. Often, this process involves using a combination of new technology and old technology from the era (as new playback equipment is longer being produced) to take an analog video signal and turn it into something a modern computer can understand.

Staff saw a wide variety of material, from birthday parties, to weddings, to travelogues, to student weather reports. Formats were just as varied, and included 8mm, Super 8, 16mm film, MiniDV, 1/4” audio tape, VHS, VHS-C, Video8, Hi-8, Digital8, and even some DVDs. The digitization unit is equipped to handle all of these formats and dozens more in-house.

On April 20, Special Collections hosted the culminating event, which included a screening of digitized footage in the auditorium. Staff were on hand to host an AV petting zoo with odd formats and equipment, answer questions about digitization, preservation, donation, and community involvement in the archives, and of course, to officiate Home Movie Bingo, where viewers of the screening were tasked with spotting aluminum lawn chairs, Halloween costumes, old technology, and more in the home movie clips. Most importantly, original items and their corresponding digital files were returned and taken home.

The event was an experiment for the staff of the archive, who did not know if people would be banging down the door to take part or if no one would give it a second thought. Fortunately, it was a success, so much so, that the staff had to divide up the massive volume of items received into several rounds.

We were often asked *why* we were doing this.

“This event was for the community but also for the archive,” said Ruta Abolins, Director of BMA. “It was a chance to meet community members, help them get to know the archive and Special Collections, cultivate new collections, and most importantly help people see their memories again by moving them from old media sources to digital files.”

During the event, Thomas May, lead audiovisual technician at BMA and one of the organizers of the event, also addressed the need for “Free the Tapes.”

“This event was kind of a wild idea. I think that there is a responsibility to archives to do their part to provide these memories back to their creators and help them in preserving them together,” May said. “We focused on tapes for this inaugural event, because they are particularly vulnerable. Even in the tapes brought in, there were several that were already too deteriorated for us to digitize. So not only is there a responsibility, but I think there is also an urgency.”

BMA hosted another “Free the Tapes” event this fall with “Free the Tapes: Athens Potluck Edition” to coincide with the Hargrett Gallery exhibit centered on Jason Thrasher’s *Athens Potluck* book.

Be on the lookout for more Free the Tapes dates in the future!

*If you would like to learn about events like Free the Tapes and others, please sign up for the Libraries’ monthly e-newsletter at [libs.uga.edu/newsletter](https://libs.uga.edu/newsletter).*



Attendees at the first Free the Tapes event were treated to a screening of the recently-digitized footage. Audience members participated in Home Movie bingo for prizes.



# COVERING THE CLASSIC CITY:

## Historic Athens Banner-Herald Issues Available Online

By Donnie Summerlin

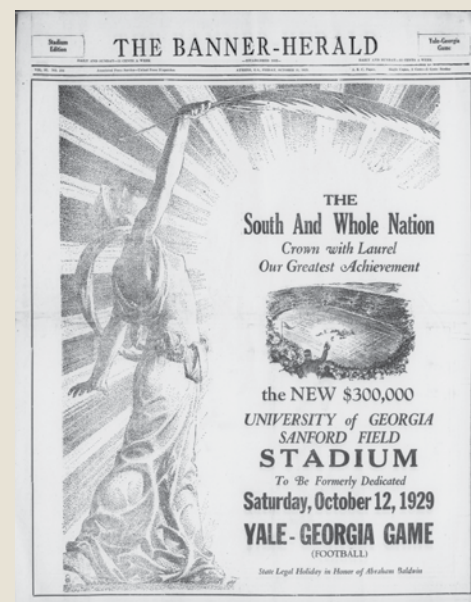
As part of our earliest newspaper digitization efforts over a decade ago, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) made the *Athens Banner-Herald* and its predecessor titles from 1827 to 1928 available online. Since then, we have digitized an additional three million newspaper pages from over 200 Georgia cities across the state. Our interest in digitizing more Athens newspapers never waned during that time and we are excited to continue that work this year to make the twentieth century history of the Classic City more accessible for researchers.

With funding from the University of Georgia Libraries and support from GALILEO (Georgia's Virtual Library), the DLG has digitized the *Athens Banner-Herald* from 1928 to 1965 and made it freely available online through the Georgia Historic Newspapers website. This project includes over 125,000 pages of daily Athens newspaper content that can be keyword searched and browsed by date. The *Banner-Herald* has been Athens-Clarke County's paper of record

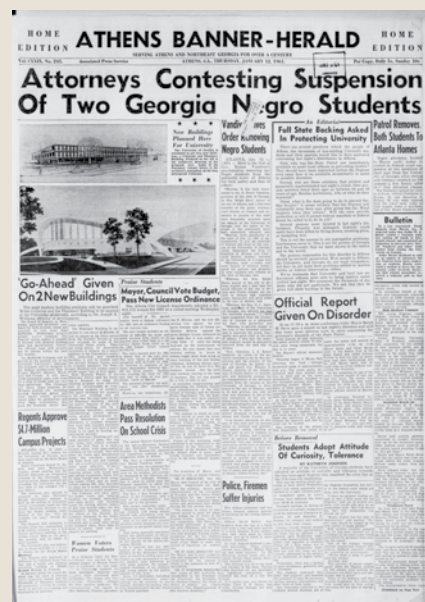
for nearly two centuries and serves as the most detailed documentation of the city's history.

Explore the *Athens Banner-Herald* and other newspaper titles in the Georgia Historic Newspapers website at <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>.

Athens went through a period of rapid growth and significant social change in the mid-twentieth century that continues to be felt in the life of the city today. The issues digitized as part of this project report on that period of history and include stories on the first football game played at Sanford Stadium in 1929, the establishment of the city's Navy Supply Corps School in 1954, and the opening of the Beechwood Shopping Center in 1963. The *Banner-Herald* also reported on civil rights activities in the city, including the tumultuous integration of the University of Georgia in 1961. Dr. Jane McPherson, the Director of Global Engagement & Associate Professor at UGA's School of Social Work,



(Left) Special Edition of the *Banner-Herald* celebrating the opening of Sanford Stadium. The University of Georgia played their first game in the stadium against Yale in 1929.

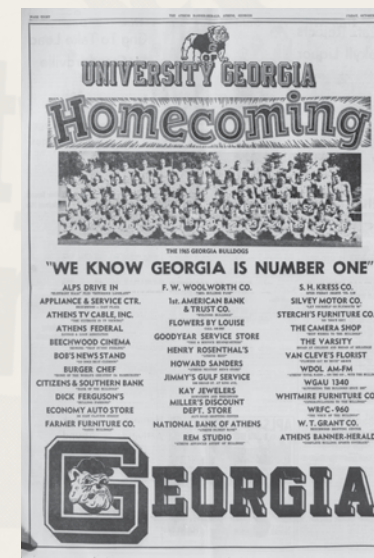


(Right) Front page of the January 12, 1961 issue of the *Banner-Herald* covering the integration of UGA and plans for the construction of the Colosseum and Pharmacy Building.



(Left) The top photograph is of Ben Epps with his first plane in 1907. The bottom photo is Epps with his son and daughter in front of one of his planes 1930. Both were published in the September 22, 1930 issue of the *Banner-Herald*.

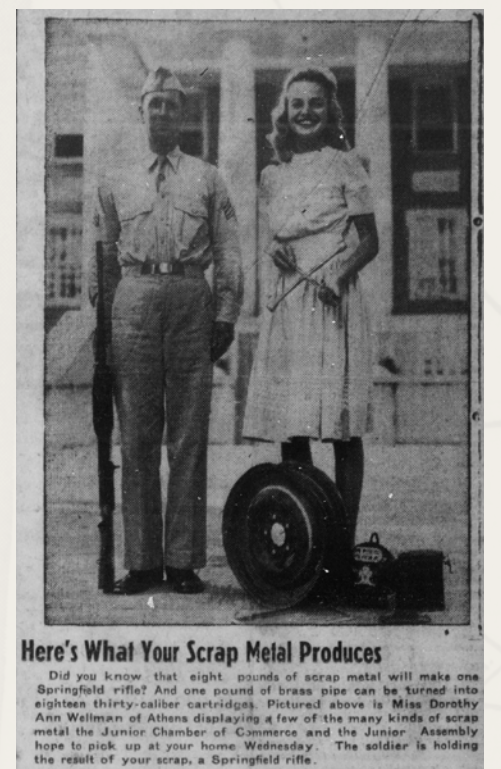
(Right) University Homecoming ad from the October 8, 1965 issue of the *Banner-Herald*. The Bulldogs beat the Clemson Tigers 23-9 in that game at Sanford Stadium.



(Left) July 2, 1942 photograph of Dorothy Ann Wellman with a soldier promoting a metal scrap drive in Athens during World War II.

(Below Left) Foreign naval officers visiting the Athens Regional Library Bookmobile during a tour of Athens from the November 25, 1962 issue of the *Athens Banner-Herald*.

(Below Right) Summer 1965 photograph of the UGA Coach Vince Dooley with his family on vacation at Sea Island, Georgia.



advocated for the continued digitization of the *Banner-Herald* and her interest in incorporating the resource into her classes helped inspire the project: "It is so exciting to have digital access to the *Athens Banner-Herald*. It's stunning to read real-time local responses to historical events—from the Civil War to the New Deal to the War on Poverty. My students use the newspaper to see how broad national trends in social welfare played out on the local stage: How were widows and orphans cared for after the Civil War? Where were the local settlement houses? How

did local people feel about child labor? And how did Athens prevent and then promote the racial desegregation of schools?"

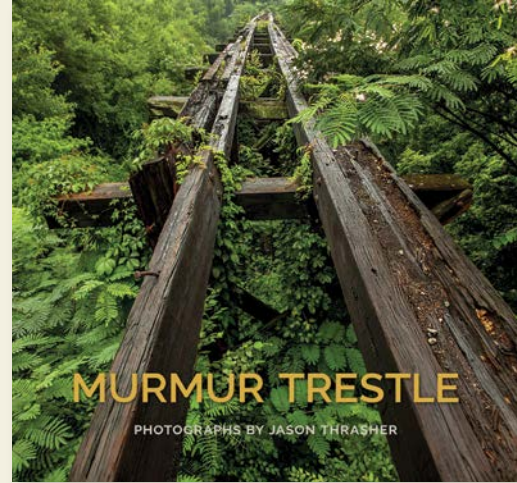
The Digital Library of Georgia plans to continue digitizing the *Athens Banner-Herald* from 1965 to 1977 in the next calendar year. It is part of an ongoing effort to make more twentieth century newspapers available on the Georgia Historic Newspapers website.





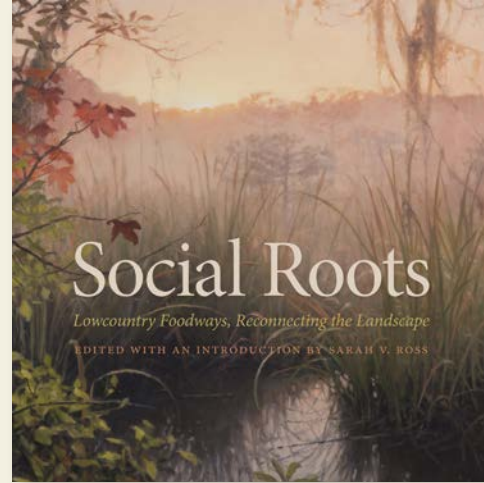
# NEW FROM UGA PRESS

# NEW FROM UGA PRESS



### Murmur Trestle

Photographs by Jason Thrasher  
9781588385192 • HB \$34.95  
NEWSOUTH BOOKS



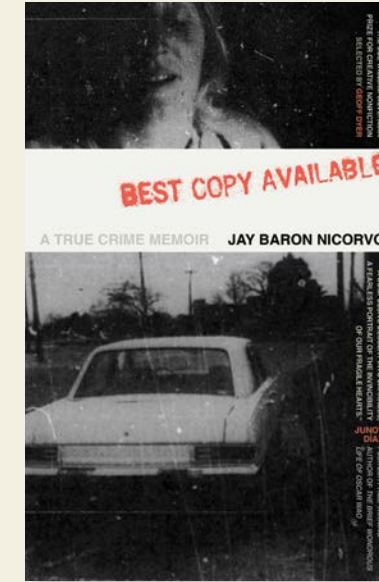
### Social Roots

*Lowcountry Foodways, Reconnecting the Landscape*  
Edited with an introduction by Sarah V. Ross  
9780820362489 • HB \$39.95



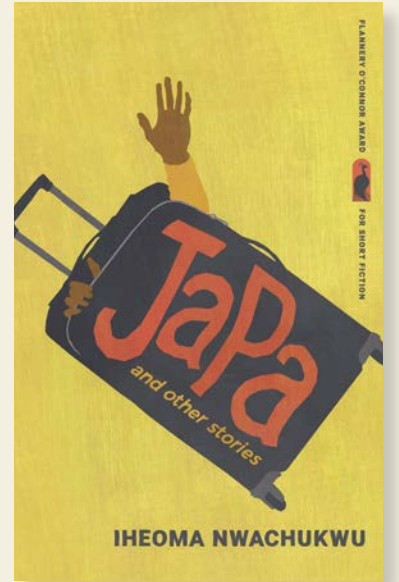
### The Sky Was Once a Dark Blanket

Kinsale Drake  
9780820367309 • PB \$19.95  
National Poetry Prize



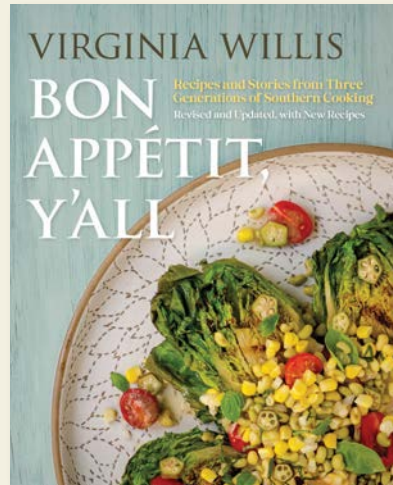
### Best Copy Available

*A True Crime Memoir*  
Jay Baron Nicorvo  
9780820367361 • PB \$28.95  
Sue Silverman Prize for Creative Nonfiction



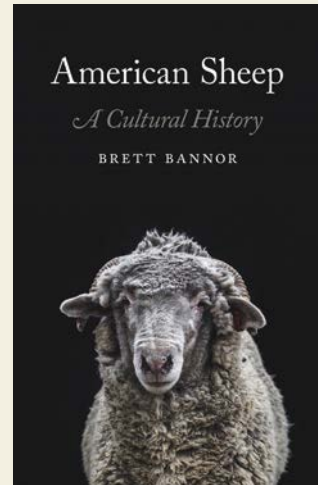
### Japa and Other Stories

Iheoma Nwachukwu  
9780820367279 • PB \$25.95  
Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction



### Bon Appétit, Y'all

*Recipes and Stories from Three Generations of Southern Cooking*  
Revised and Updated, with New Recipes  
Virginia Willis  
9780820367194 • PB \$24.95



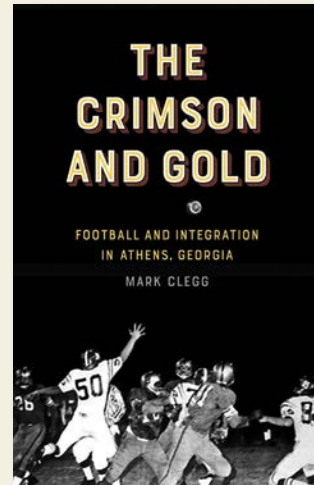
### American Sheep

*A Cultural History*  
Brett Bannor  
9780820367163  
HB \$29.95



### Tripas

*Poems*  
Brandon Som  
9780820363509  
PB \$19.95  
GEORGIA REVIEW BOOKS



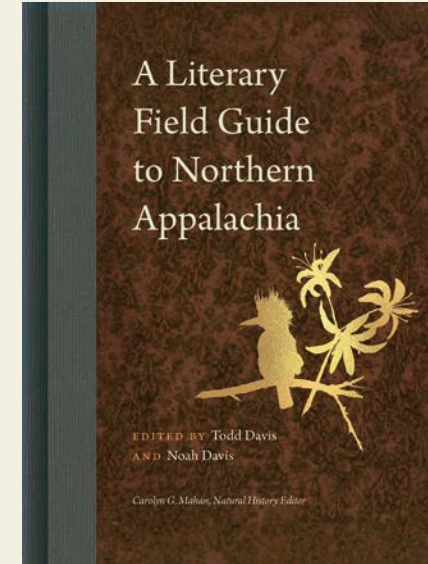
### The Crimson and Gold

*Football and Integration in Athens, Georgia*  
Mark Clegg  
9780820366982  
PB \$25.95



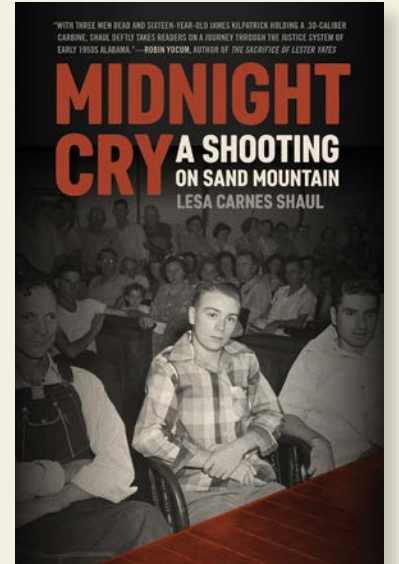
### Killing the Buddha on the Appalachian Trail

*Walking On through Self-Doubt and Aging*  
John Turner  
9780820367736 • PB \$29.95



### A Literary Field Guide to Northern Appalachia

Edited by Todd Davis and Noah Davis  
Carolyn G. Mahan, Natural History Editor  
9780820367422 • HC \$24.95



### Midnight Cry

*A Shooting on Sand Mountain*  
Lesla Carnes Shaul  
9781588385338 • HC \$27.95  
NewSouth Books



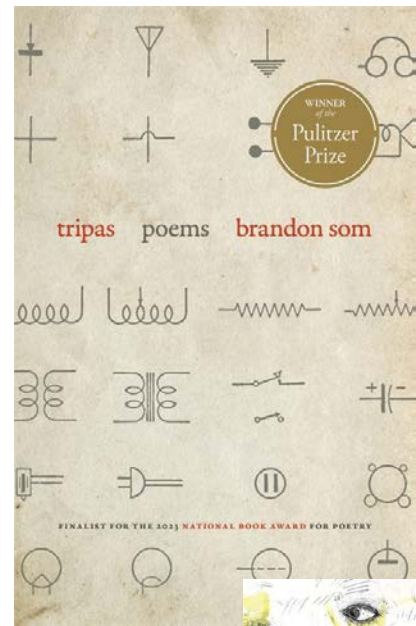


# THE GEORGIA REVIEW



G E O R G I A  
R E V I E W  
B O O K S

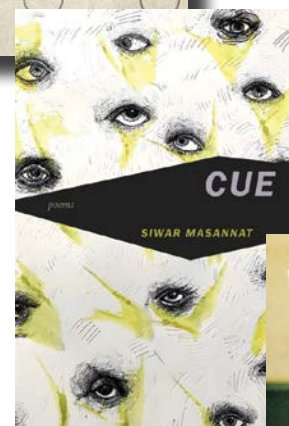
NEW TITLES FROM GEORGIA REVIEW BOOKS



## TRIPAS

BY BRANDON SOM

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY



## CUE

BY SIWAR MASANNAT



## PRESENCE

BY BRENDA IIJIMA

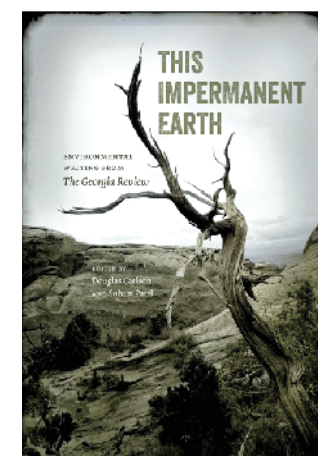
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## From the Office of DEVELOPMENT



▲ Lee Snelling

“It is just amazing all the resources students have today.” These were the words of a new board member who has just joined the UGA Libraries Board of Visitors. My colleague Leandra Nessel and I had just hosted a board member “boot camp” where we took our visitors on a grand tour of the various on-campus facilities under the Libraries umbrella. We joked that ‘back in our day’ we simply found a quiet spot and went about studying for an upcoming exam. It truly is amazing all the resources today’s students have at their disposal.

As a new academic year begins it is the perfect time to showcase all that we do to support students and faculty.



▲ Students have been thrilled with the renovations to the fourth floor of the McBay Science Library, which brought group study rooms and new furniture.

We are tremendously excited about the renovations at the McBay Science Library. If you visit the fourth floor you’ll find an upgraded space full of study spots for students, including twenty-five new group study rooms (*yes, there are naming opportunities!*). The ever-popular Zoom booths have proliferated in the Main Library, MLC, and McBay. The fact is, students study differently than we did. They like to have a choice between individual, secluded spots, but also group study areas that allow for collaborative study.

Our new board members enjoyed learning about how the Special Collections Libraries supports the student academic experience. Yes, there are museum style galleries, but there is so much more to that wonderful building. Each academic year we host between 350-400 classes that introduce archival-based learning in the classroom. Faculty are able to identify artifacts within our collections that truly bring history to life for students. To say I am jealous of today’s students is an understatement!

Speaking of our galleries, have you visited the Special Collections Libraries lately? If not, you are in for a treat. Local Athens photographer, Jason Thrasher, currently has an exhibit called Athens Potluck. Long famed for its rich music tradition the exhibit highlights the 33 Athens based musicians and bands that Thrasher photographed and interviewed in his 2017 book, *Athens Potluck*.

There is much to celebrate and recognize as we wrap up 2024. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies. This month, we are also presenting the inaugural Vince and Barbara Dooley Friends of the UGA Libraries Award to Craig and Diana Barrow of Savannah, Georgia. As we celebrate our rich history, and those that have played important roles along the way, I encourage you to find ways to engage with the Libraries. As our board members learned, libraries are alive and well in 2024. They are vibrant spaces for academic activities and so much more. We hope to see you soon visiting one of our nine facilities. Until then, thank you for all you do in supporting our mission.

# Donor Makes Fellowship Possible

By Camie Williams

During the summer of 2024, a University of Georgia doctoral student focused on stories of Athens’ diverse communities during the inaugural term of the Hargrett Library Fellowship in Local History.

**Theodora “Tedi” Light**, an Athens native who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in history at UGA, helped grow and increase public access to the Athens African American Oral History Initiative during her fellowship, a new opportunity available thanks to a donor to the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.

Stephen Mihm, head of the Department of History, praised the anonymous donors who made this new fellowship possible for the sake of students and for members of local communities whose stories will be preserved. “All too often, significant archival material that accumulates in local communities does not survive for the simple reason that there are no repositories where it can be preserved for researchers. This gift will guarantee that these invaluable historical resources are available for future generations.”

While the fellowship is named for the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, one of three Special Collections units of UGA Libraries, fellowship projects may be chosen from any of those units. The Athens African American Oral History Initiative is a program of the Russell Library for Political Research and Studies’ Oral History Program. In 2023, the initiative gathered more than 80 oral interviews with Black Athenians.

“As a public historian by training, oral histories have been some of the most powerful and fun projects to assist,” said Light. “As a native Athenian, I’m particularly excited to give back to my hometown and help preserve some of the stories that are often overlooked or forgotten. Athens is a big, and growing, college town, but the Black community has often suffered for UGA’s expansion. I’m excited to be able to work towards bridging that divide even just a little.”

For UGA’s Special Collections Libraries, the fellowship provides an opportunity to further an important project to preserve the history of local communities, while training the next generation of historians to continue their mission.

“The Local History Fellowship was an exciting opportunity for the Russell Library’s Oral History Program and its digital archive to work with a doctoral student, while focusing on Athens’ local Black communities and personal narratives,” said Christian Lopez, head of oral history and media at the Russell Library. “For an emerging public historian like Theodora Light, it was an intensive opportunity to engage with those communities’ reflections, and to learn, wrangle, and develop digital humanities workflows that improve preservation and access of those interviews.”

If you would like to sponsor a fellowship in special collections, contact Lee Snelling at (706) 542-0628 or [snelling@uga.edu](mailto:snelling@uga.edu).



▲ Theodora “Tedi” Light

“This gift will guarantee that these invaluable historical resources are available for future generations.”



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

## BROWN MEDIA ARCHIVES

**Susan Murphy Collection:** Susan Murphy has had a long career in the aerial arts and is the founder of Canopy Studio in Athens, Georgia. She is a Georgia native and lives and works in Darien, Georgia. The collection, much of it shot by her husband, Don Carson, features 158 videotapes in different formats documenting her career as a performer and as a teacher. A portion of the collection has been digitized and the files will be linked soon to the catalog records. In addition, the Hargrett Library holds the papers of her great-grandmother Vara Majette, a lawyer and artist, who had a great influence on Susan when she was growing up.



## HARGRETT RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

**Beach Institute and Savannah area photo album:** The Beach Institute was the first school built in Savannah after Emancipation specifically for African Americans, operating from 1867 until 1915. The school was named in honor of inventor and editor of Scientific American, Alfred Ely Beach, who was a benefactor of the school. This collection contains a small photo album featuring photographs of the Beach Institute, a group of teachers, and several classes of students with teachers. It also includes photographs of a family at home and in Tybee, African American individuals and couples, houses and stores, as well as scenes around Savannah, Georgia.

**American Type Founders Collection:** The American Type Founders (ATF) was formed in 1892 as a consolidation of twenty-three independent type foundries in the United States. This alliance was formed as a reaction to the invention of two practical systems for automated mechanical typesetting; the Linotype and the Monotype. Although mechanical typesetting quickly gained popularity, the American Type Founders' efforts helped hand-setting maintain relevance for several years. The American Type Founders also created the first type families and fonts that continue to be widely used, such as Franklin Gothic, Alternate Gothic, Garamond, and Egyptian Antique. The company was dissolved in 1993. This collection documents individual type faces and styles from the height of the American Type Founders Company's (ATF) business and productivity. A majority of the collection is made up of around two hundred and fifty flyers on type faces. Of note is The Goudy Family catalogue. Also included is an American Type Founders oak box set of font cards with each card displaying a complete set of characters and sizes.



## RICHARD B. RUSSELL LIBRARY FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH AND STUDIES

**Garland T. Byrd Papers:** Born in Reynolds, Georgia (Taylor County), Garland T. Byrd graduated from Reynolds High School in 1941. During World War II, he served in engineer combat units in the United States Army (1942- 1945), and was discharged at rank of captain. He then served as a major in the Georgia National Guard and as a state Judge Advocate. Byrd attended University of Georgia from 1946 to 1948, where he was a member of Sigma Chi. He earned the LL.B. degree from Emory University School of Law in 1949.

A lifelong farmer and real estate businessman, Byrd served Taylor County as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives (1947 - 1949). Elected Lieutenant Governor in 1958, he served under Governor Ernest Vandiver (1959-1963). As President of the Senate, Byrd presided over debate on a variety of legislative issues, notably efforts to reduce state spending and balance the budget. Other issues he supported included improvements to mental health care, the growth of the community college system and school desegregation. Byrd entered the governor's race in 1961 but was forced to suspend his campaign after suffering a heart attack. In late 1962, he was elected State Senator from Georgia's 17th district.

In 1964, he was Democratic nominee for U.S. Representative from Georgia's 3rd congressional district, and lost to Republican nominee (and 1966 gubernatorial nominee) Bo Callaway. In 1966 he was a candidate for succeeding Governor Carl E. Sanders, but he lost the Democratic primary. Byrd's papers include correspondence, speech, legislative, press, and campaign files; photographs, scrapbooks, and audiovisual materials.



Fly High with Byrd BBQ; Mrs. Byrd (on far left) and other ladies at the event, 1958.

# UGA LIBRARIES

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# BOARD OF VISITORS

The Libraries' Board of Visitors includes alumni and friends from across the state and around the country. The board has been a tremendous help to us in securing the private funding for the Special Collections Libraries Building as well as various library projects including an endowment for the Miller Learning Center, enhancing our collection endowment, and acquiring special materials for our collections. We wish to acknowledge and thank this devoted group of volunteers whose efforts will have a lasting impact on the success of the University of Georgia Libraries.

- |                                 |                       |
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