

Top Shelf

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

October 2007

Volume 3, No. 2



RWWL Sponsors “Evening” With Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet



During RWWL’s “An Evening of Spoken Word & Poetry,” AUC students (standing l-r) Ayinde Cartman, Keyona Mays, Zamir Walton, Vinson Muhammad and Hollis Mason perform a special “AUC Chant” as Woodruff CEO & Library Director Loretta Parham (seated left) and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Natasha Trethewey (seated right) look on.

On September 25, Atlanta University Center student poets and Pulitzer-prize winning author Natasha Trethewey showcased the many faces of poetry

during “An Evening of Spoken Word and Poetry” at the Robert W. Woodruff Library (RWWL) of the Atlanta University Center (AUC).

Nearly 200 students, faculty and staff attended the standing-room-only event, one in a series of Library-sponsored programs commemorating RWWL’s 25th year of providing collaborative library services to the historically black colleges and universities of the AUC consortium.

Successfully blending traditional and contemporary forms, the program featured Trethewey, Phillis Wheatley Distinguished

Chair of Poetry at Emory University and author of *Native Guard*, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and AUC student poets performing works of spoken word.

AUC students performing on the program included: **Ayinde Cartman, Vinson Muhammad, Hollis Mason and Zamir Walton of Morehouse College;** and **Shanee Ka Lee and Keyona Mays of Clark Atlanta University (CAU).**

The young poets opened the program by reciting a “call-and-response” hip-hop chant paying homage to each of the four AUC member institutions—CAU, the **Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse and Spelman College.** Then Trethewey took the stage, read-

(Poetry Reading —Continued on page 2)

Library’s Work on Morehouse King Collection Progresses; RWWL Receives Mellon Grants

Two generous grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation are assisting the Woodruff Library of the AUC in its efforts to make the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection available for scholarly research.

Two archivists, a cataloger, graduate assistant and project manager have been hired exclusively to process the Morehouse King Collection. Members of the new processing team include:

- ♦ **Brenda Banks**, Project Manager
- ♦ **Bridget Lerette**, Processing Archivist
- ♦ **Courtney Chartier**, Processing Archivist
- ♦ **Gail Spears**, Special Collections Cataloger
- ♦ **Melvin Collier**, Graduate Assistant

Staff salaries, supplies,

(Mellon Grants—continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>King Collection Update</i>	2
<i>C. Eric Lincoln Roundtable at Woodruff</i>	2
<i>RWWL Photo Gallery</i>	3
<i>Workshops for Faculty and Students</i>	4
<i>Virginia Lacy Jones Papers</i>	4

Sharing King Collection With the World: RWWL Continues Processing and Outreach



Karen Jefferson, Head of Archives & Special Collections, talks with conservator about work completed on a suitcase belonging to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The conservation work is just one of the many processing activities undertaken and completed since RWWL assumed custodianship of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection in September 2006.

Since becoming the custodial home of Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection in September 2006, the Woodruff Library of the AUC has worked diligently to share King with the world. During the past year, while developing and implementing a plan for bringing order to the collection, staff also have become collection ambassadors. RWWL outreach activities have included:

- ◆ Expert commentary provided to CNN, NPR, the Associated Press, the *Atlanta Journal*

Constitution and other local and national media outlets

- ◆ Presentations to the Society of American Archivists in Chicago, Ill.; the Commerce Club and Holland + Knight, LLC in Atlanta; and other community organizations

- ◆ Attendance of **Karen Jefferson**, Head of **Archives and Special Collections** at an unveiling ceremony in Venezuela for a bust of Dr. King honoring his contributions to worldwide human rights

In addition, RWWL CEO & Director **Loretta Parham** has authored an article scheduled for publication in the November issue of the *Rare Books & Manuscripts Journal* and staff assisted the Atlanta History Center in the identification and transport of 600 items included in its record-breaking exhibit, *I Have A Dream: The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection*. Staged January 15-May 13, 2007, the exhibit attracted more than 72,000 visitors.

Library Hosts C. Eric Lincoln Roundtable

On October 11, the **Clark Atlanta University (CAU)** Department of Religion and Philosophy hosted the 25th C. Eric Lincoln Lectureship Series. The Woodruff Library of the AUC is the archival repository for the C. Eric Lincoln Papers that are available for research in Archives & Special Collections.

The afternoon roundtable discussion, held in the RWWL Exhibition Hall, focused on "Relating Religion and Race: Four Historical Models," the C. Eric Lincoln Lecture presented earlier in the day by Dr. Albert J. Raboteau, The Henry W. Putman Professor of

Religion at Princeton University. Panelists for the roundtable discussion included: CAU Religion and Philosophy Professor **Dr. Ilyia Davis**, **Morehouse College** Religion Professor **Dr. Aaron Parker** and Raboteau.

In recognition of the Lecture's 25th anniversary, archival staff assembled an exhibit on C. Eric Lincoln that will be on display in the Exhibition Hall until December 14. For more information about the exhibit or the C. Eric Lincoln Papers, contact archives@aucr.edu or 404-978-2052.

(Poetry Reading—Continued from page 1)



Natasha Trethewey, Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair of Poetry at Emory University and author of Native Guard, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry

ing selections from *Native Guard* that invoked images of her southern upbringing and shed light on indignities suffered by herself and other African Americans born of the Mississippi Delta.

"Programs such as this have the power to influence learning, not only through spotlighting outstanding artistry, but also in providing a forum for "first-person" interaction between young, up-and-coming artists and a potential mentor," said **Loretta Parham**, CEO & Director of the Woodruff Library of the AUC. "That is very exciting to see."

Clark Atlanta University English professor **Calaya Reid**, who attended the program with students in her creative writing classes, agreed. "This type of 'hands-on' learning allows students to experience the work for themselves and gain insight into the creative process from someone who has reached the pinnacle of her profession," she said. "I just sit back and let the learning happen."

CORRECTION: AUGUST 2007 ISSUE

In the LibQUAL Survey story (Page 2) which appeared in the August 2007 issue of the Top Shelf newsletter, the total number of Interdenominational Theological Center participants was incorrectly reported.

The correct number of participants was 189. We regret any inconvenience this error may have caused.

RWWL: Your Place, Your Space

Imagine a classroom with nearly 220,000 square feet of space filled with electronic and print resources, computers, furniture, programs and services designed specifically with you in mind. Well, that's exactly what you have at the Woodruff Library of the AUC. Library staff are finding more and more ways to meet user needs for instruction, leisure space and electronic resources. Take a look at all the ways you use the Library!



AS A LABORATORY...Spelman College ADW students get hands-on instruction in accessing the ARTstor database for research papers.



*AS A CLASSROOM...Clark Atlanta University Education Professor **Dr. Ruby Thompson** (on the left wearing glasses) teaches reading education techniques in RWWL's Curriculum Materials Center.*



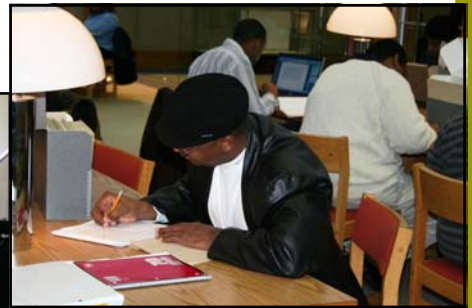
*AS A RESOURCE...During Fall 2007 Orientation, new **Morehouse College** students learn about the many ways the Woodruff Library can assist in meeting their academic goals.*



AS A LINK TO THE WORLD...During RWWL's 2007 New Faculty Orientation Luncheon, AUC faculty access some of the many electronic resources the Library offers. With RWWL remote access, faculty and students can use these virtual resources at any time or any place.



AS AN INFORMATION CENTER...AUC students interested in pursuing graduate study attended the AUC Consortium's annual Graduate/Professional School Information and Recruitment Fair in the RWWL Exhibition Hall. More than 200 colleges, universities and professional schools were represented.



*AS A RESEARCH CENTER...ITC student **Kevin Young** completes an assignment for his Foundations in Ministry using materials from the Woodruff Library's Archives & Special Collections.*



AS A QUIET SPACE...Responding to students requests for "quiet space" free of cell phones and other distractions, the Woodruff Library this fall debuted a new "Quiet Study Room" on the Lower Level in the former "Closed Reading Room." The area has quickly become students' "new favorite place" to read, study and just relax.



REGISTER EARLY!

JSTOR/ARTstor Training Initiative for Faculty --



In an effort to maximize the integration of database content into course planning, faculty are invited to participate in advanced training workshops for the JSTOR and ARTstor databases. Faculty successfully completing the training will receive an honorarium.

From **Tuesday, November 13 through Friday, February 29**, selected faculty will receive hands-on database training and work collaboratively with librarians to design, implement and assess a student assignment incorporating key features of the respective databases. **Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 30.**

To apply for or learn more about the program, contact **Yolanda Gilmore Bivins** at **404-978-2132** or ygbivins@auctr.edu. Additional information also is available on the RWWL web site at: www.auctr.edu.

APA, MLA and Turabian Citation Style Workshops —

To promote academic integrity among students when writing assignments, the Library is presenting a series of **October and November** workshops focusing on the proper use of APA, MLA and Turabian citation styles.

Learn to format in-text citations, create reference pages and more. Sessions focusing on each of the three styles have been planned. For a full schedule of workshops, visit the RWWL Web site at: www.auctr.edu.

All workshops will be held in Training Labs 1 & 2 on the Library's Lower Level. Space is limited, so interested students are encouraged to pre-register for the work shops. Email: AskRef@auctr.edu to sign up. Call **404-978-2067** for additional information.



(Mellon Grant — Continued from page 1)

conservation fees and training associated with the preliminary work for this project is being funded by a \$115,000 grant to the Woodruff Library from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. With staff dedicated solely to processing the Morehouse King Collection, other RWWL archivists, curators and technicians can now focus their efforts on the variety of other rich collections within the department.

Most recently, the Mellon Foundation awarded RWWL \$400,000 for the collaborative development of digital finding aids for the King Collections at Woodruff

and the Howard Gotlieb Archival Center at Boston University.

Archival staff will use special software to create common subject terms and names for the Morehouse and Boston University King Collections, and wherever possible, consistent with those used for King materials cataloged as part of Stanford University's King Papers Project. A Web page will be created to mount the resulting Morehouse and HGARC finding aids. When completed, the MLK Archival Collaborative project will result in finding aids that will enable researchers to electronically search the Morehouse and Boston University King Collections simultaneously.

Virginia Lacy Jones Collection Now Available for Research

The personal papers of Virginia Lacy Jones (b. 1912-d. 1985), esteemed Atlanta University Library School Dean and director of the Woodruff Library of the AUC, are now open for research in the Library's Archives & Special Collections Department.



Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones

In 1945, Dr. Virginia Lacy Jones became the second African American to receive a Ph.D. in Library Service. She was the first director of the Woodruff Library of the AUC and the second dean of the Atlanta University (now **Clark Atlanta University**) School of Library Science. The Library's Virginia Lacy Jones Exhibition Hall was dedicated in her honor in 1985.

In the Virginia Lacy Jones Papers, researchers will find correspondence, writings (by and about her), programs, reports and photographs that provide a glimpse into her personal life and professional career as a librarian. Also included are awards and honors she received for her hard work, leadership and untiring fight for equality for African Americans in the library profession and for equality of library services for African American communities.

To view the Virginia Lacy Jones Papers, researchers are encouraged to contact the Archives & Special Collections to make an appointment at archives@auctr.edu or **404-978-2052**.

Top Shelf

*Published four times a year
for library users*



ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY
Atlanta University Center

25th Anniversary

111 James P. Brawley Drive, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
Phone: 404-978-2000
Fax: 404-577-5158
www.auctr.edu

CEO/Library Director
Loretta Parham

Editor & Copywriter
Adrian B. Carver
E-mail: acarver@auctr.edu