



# CHECK IT OUT!

Newsletter of the James Earl Carter Library

Volume 7, No. 2

Spring 2007

## The Southwest Georgia Oral History Center Wins Award of Excellence

During the Fall 2005 semester, Georgia Southwestern State University created the Southwest Georgia Oral History Center. On Monday October 16, 2006, Secretary of State Cathy Cox presented GSW with the 2006 Outstanding Archives Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development awarded by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. In attendance were: former President Dr. Michael Hanes; Dr. Glenn Robins, Director of the Oral History Center; Vera Weisskopf, Dean of the Library; Dr. David Garrison, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Wes Sumner, Director of University Relations.

The Southwest Georgia Oral History Center was funded by the Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund and provides transcription machines, recorders and duplicators, and other supplies. The Department of History Internship Program includes the Center as a training option for students. Throughout the 2005-2006 academic year, more than thirty-five students devoted more than 250 hours to the Center in such areas as transcribing and conducting interviews and cataloging documents.

The Center is already engaged in several projects. The Sumter County Oral History Project currently consists of twenty-eight interviews with Southwest Georgia community leaders. The collection is racially and culturally diverse and includes interviews with civil rights activists, local politicians, religious leaders, and businessmen. It also covers Jewish culture in the South.

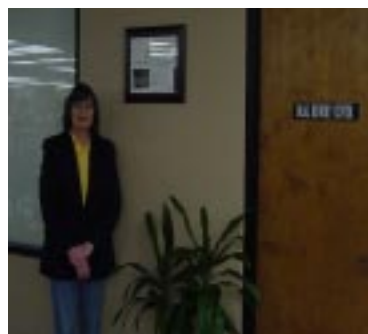
In January 2006, GSW was selected as a Partner Archive for the Veteran's Oral History Project of the Library of Congress. Several of the interviews that have been conducted were with Georgia veterans. As part of this project, the Center has digitally recorded approximately forty Vietnam War era photographs of three Georgia veterans and digitally recorded the letters of a Vietnam veteran written to his parents in 1967-1968. There are more than one hundred and twenty-five letters in the collection.

February 2006, the Center also hosted the Black History Month Program, Lessons from the Past: Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement in Albany and Americus. Participants included Charles Sherrod, SNCC field secretary in Albany, Georgia from 1961-1967; Robertiena Freeman Fletcher, student activist and one of four students to integrate Americus High in 1964; Juanita Freeman Wilson, student activist, one of the first African Americans to graduate from GSW and retired principal of Americus High; and Reverend J.R. Campbell, former pastor of Allen Chapel AMR Church and protest march organizer in Americus. The event was held in the Jackson Hall auditorium at GSW. The general public as well as students attended the event and the program has been broadcast numerous times on the GSW television station.

These programs are an indication that the students, faculty, library staff, and administrators at Georgia Southwestern State University are committed to collecting, preserving, and archiving Georgia's history. The James Earl Carter Library is pleased to provide a home for the Southwest Georgia Oral History Center. The Center is open to the public.

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Vera Weisskopf, Dean of Library, standing by Award of Excellence.

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## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



### LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday	8 AM-10 PM
Friday	8 AM-5 PM
Saturday	12 PM-6 PM
Sunday	2 PM-10 PM

### DEPARTMENTS:

#### Access Services

229-931-2266

Circulation:

[libcirc@canes.gsw.edu](mailto:libcirc@canes.gsw.edu)

Interlibrary Loan:

[libill@canes.gsw.edu](mailto:libill@canes.gsw.edu)

#### Administration

229-931-2259

#### Cataloging

229-931-2258

#### Collection Development

229-931-2789/2261

#### Reference/

#### Government Documents

229-931-2850/2262

[libref@canes.gsw.edu](mailto:libref@canes.gsw.edu)

### Web Page:

<http://www.gsw.edu/~library>

### Circulation Policy:

Books	3 Weeks
Audio/Visual Materials	3 Weeks
Reserve Materials	2 Hours In Library

**CHECK IT OUT** is published by the

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As I write this column, eleven days have passed since the tornado struck Americus. The amount of damage done is mind-boggling but even more impressive is the way the community has come together to assist those stricken and to begin the task of rebuilding this city of which we all are so proud.

The Library was open at the time so it was with immense relief that I received a phone call assuring me that staff, users, and even the building itself had been spared. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who were less fortunate.

The highlight of the Spring semester so far was the Library's successful Luncheon in the Library program featuring Dr. Amy Porter, of GSW's History Dept., who gave an analysis and led a discussion on the fascinating book *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi. We hope to continue Luncheons in the Library with at least one program per semester. We encourage participation by the community and hope you will join us for the next luncheon. One of the objectives of this program is to bring together, with interesting programs in an informal setting, all members of the GSW and surrounding community.

This semester we also welcomed our interim President, Dr. Kendall Blanchard, and his wife, Dr. Connie Blanchard, to GSW. We are grateful for their support and interest in the Library. At Dr. Blanchard's suggestion, a direct link to the Library's web-site has been installed on GSW's home page (on the bar between "Financial Aid" and "Athletics"). With a quick click, the user can now reach the Library's home page. We hope you will all avail yourselves of this user-friendly link to check out our web-site and the many services and access to information it provides.

This semester is also marked by three searches to fill our vacancies: Sr. Tech Ass't., Reference Librarian, and Access Services Supervisor. Mrs. Claudia Black, who has served this Library as Student Assistant, Circulation Supervisor, and for the past 8 years as Access Services Supervisor, has announced her retirement, effective May 4th. Her contributions are too many to be summarized in a column, but, I do want to note that she capped her career here with the successful development of the GSW Historical Collection and the refurbishing of the Macy Bishop Gray room in which it is housed. She played a pivotal role in the organization and implementation of this Library Centennial project. She will be missed.

Vera J. Weisskopf  
Dean of the Library  
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## WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

### Selective List of New Titles/Acquisitions In Spring 2007:

#### Annual Register of Grant Support

Ref AS911 .A2A67

Academic Media

#### Introduction to Mathematics

QA39.2 .M49

Meserve, Bruce Elwyn

#### Voices from the Holocaust

D810 .J4V63

Rothchild, Sylvia

## WISH LIST

*The Library is grateful to its supporters for their gifts and donations. These are often used to supplement the Library's limited collections budget. In each issue we will list a few examples of works we would like to purchase from donations.*

Encyclopaedia Judaica, Second Edition - 22 volumes

\$1,595.00

Shooting Star: the Brief Arc of Joe

McCarthy

\$22.00

The New Cambridge Medieval History: v.1: c.500-c.700

\$180.00



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

**Gretchen Smith**

**Collection Development Librarian**



The James Earl Carter Library is pleased to welcome the new Collection Development Librarian, Gretchen Smith. Gretchen joined the Library's staff in November 2006. As Collection Development Librarian, she will be working with the faculty and other library staff members to purchase books, serials, and other materials for the library.

Gretchen received a BA in History from Rhodes College and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama. She relocated here from Mobile, Alabama, where she was a Public Service Librarian at the University of Mobile. Her husband is an Assistant Professor of History at Fort Valley State University, and they have recently purchased a home here in Americus.

Please join us in welcoming Gretchen to the GSW community!

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## Flirting in the 19th Century

Back in the mid 1800's, courtship was much more ritualistic. In girls' notebooks, written with lilac ink in delicate Victorian hand, were instructions on how to use a handkerchief to send signals to a hopeful suitor. If the handkerchief was drawn across the lips, the message was that she wanted to make his acquaintance; the eyes: "I'm sorry"; the cheek: "I love you"; the forehead: "We are watched." If the handkerchief was drawn through the hands it meant "I hate you"; if it were dropped: "We will be friends"; if it was folded: "I wish to speak to you"; letting it rest on the right cheek: "No"; letting it remain on the eyes: "You are cruel." If it were held in opposite corners in both hands it signified: "Wait for me"; over the shoulder: "Follow me"; placing it on the right ear: "You have changed"; taking it in the center: "You are too willing"; twirling in both hands: "Indifference"; twirling in the left hand: "I wish to be rid of you"; twirling in the right hand: "I love another"; twirling around the third finger: "I am married." Flirting at your side once indicated: "You're a flirt"; flirting at your side three times: "Go to the devil"; flirting over the head: "Go to thunder"; putting it in the pocket: "No more at present."

Now flirting didn't end with just handkerchiefs, there were instructions for parasols, too. Dropping a parasol was a good sign. It meant the lady loved the chap, and carrying it over her right shoulder gave permission for the fellow to start a conversation. If she closed the parasol, it meant she wanted to talk, and carrying it close on her left shoulder had an aura of mystery: "Meet me at the first crossing."

It was intricate, subtle, delicately naughty language that the gentlemen also knew and chose to accept or ignore, resulting in favorable or unfavorable consequences.

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