

# Library advances from humble beginnings

by Anne Earp  
 "A library should be not only ample, airy, and well-



Groundbreaking ceremony for new library.



Construction begins.



The framework is up.



Dr. Carlyle Campbell officially opens the library.



The current library staff.



Mrs. Quick, Librarian, aids student with card catalog.

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furnished, but it should be attractive and pleasant, so as not only to afford eager students opportunities for comfortable reading and study, but to invite the indifferent and cultivate in them a taste for reading and study."

Dr. Vann wrote these words in 1911 when two classrooms housed the Meredith library. The library program has greatly expanded since that time. The beginnings of Carlyle Campbell Library, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this week, date to a time when the college was called The Baptist Female University.

Surveying the University's first year, President Blasingame pleaded for books, saying there was "no library to speak of." Teachers supplemented the poor supply with their own books, according to Mary Lynch Johnson's History of Meredith College.

The General Library mentioned in the 1902 catalog referred to the collection of 650 volumes created in 1900. A classroom, one of the total of 14, on second floor of the main building housed this minute library.

"General Library and Reading Room" was the impressive title given to that room in 1904. Two student librarians worked about nine hours each day, with a reliable girl sometimes keeping order when both the librarians had classes.

Mr. Kesler, Mr. Sackett, and Mr. Boomhour, all professors of natural sciences, were in charge of ordering books and general oversight of the new library. Trustees requested these curators, along with two trustees, "to seek in all legitimate ways to increase

the usefulness of the library." For two years, a big account book titled Baptist Female University Library Record held a list of volumes used. Under Gold Skies, Best Things From Best Authors, Woman's Mission and Influence, Give Me Thine Heart, and Phoebe Skiddy's Theology were checked out over and over.

Favorite magazines included Atlantic Monthly, Etude, Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, Everybody's, McClure's, Lippincott's Munsey's, Century, Success, and Youth's Companion.

Forty-three free newspapers were obtained by requesting the editor of the newspaper in the home town or county where each student lived to send a complimentary subscription.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Johnson bequeathed their library to the College in 1902. This was an invaluable contribution when Meredith's library was so new and small. In 1911 the student body donated \$300.

When the collection had grown to 2,500 volumes in 1910, it was moved to two classrooms with an archway between them and the books were reclassified according to the Dewey Decimal System.

A prim and proper lady named Miss Margaret Forgeus, third full-time librarian, came on the scene in 1914. Except for two absences due to illness in her family, she was at Meredith until 1954. Each time she resigned instead of taking leaves of absence, so she was elected to her position three times.

About the same time Miss Forgeus began her long employment, a third room

directly across the hall from the others came into use. Since books reserved for upper classmen were kept there, juniors and seniors sometimes abused their freedom.

Meredith College was moved into Raleigh during Christmas vacation of 1925-26, one of the coldest in recorded history and on the new campus the library was on the second floor of the administration building. Boxes were made the length of the shelves so the books could travel in undisturbed order. The dainty Miss Forgeus first followed her library by street car and bus, but she was soon on the truck seat beside the driver.

Fund-raising campaigns for a new library begin in 1944. Through 1960 and 1961, Dr. Campbell pointed out to the executive committee "the urgent and increasing need for a new library."

After a gift of \$50,000 from the Mary Reynolds Babcock

Foundation in 1962, the trustees voted unanimously to build the library and to name it in honor of Dr. Carlyle Campbell. Construction began after the ground-breaking in 1967, and the building was completed in 1969. It was dedicated on Founders' Day, 1969.



The Library today.



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First, a little bit of history. Naval lore tells us that wooden ships of the fleet, preparing for battle, were positioned in a line of confrontation to the enemy. Hence, history says, their officers came to be known as officers of the "line," or line officers.

Today's version of these "iron men in wooden ships" is the Surface Warfare Officer, a specialist member of the line officer community. Not all line officers, however, become Surface Warfare Officers but specialize instead in many other areas of professional competence.

Lt. Cmdr. Bill Starnes will be at "66-79" which will be at Cafe Center on Thursday, Feb. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. Stop by his table and talk to him about the many opportunities in the Navy. Or call Officer Programs in Raleigh at 873-2085.

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