

# Cole Train

The Inside Track to the Houston Cole Library

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Spring 2004

## New elevators take efficiency to next level

By Sherry Kughn  
JSU News Bureau

**March 18, 2004** — The first step toward improving the elevators at Jacksonville State University's Houston Cole Library is complete. One elevator has a new cab, new controls, a new motor, and the shaft has been renovated. A service elevator and two more public elevators remain.

The work replacing the old elevators is being done by ThyssenKrupp, whose contract calls for electro-mechanical controls to be replaced by solid state microprocessor controls.

"We're replacing 30-year-old elevator technology with the new," said the library's director, Bill Hubbard. "The best feature of this new elevator is that it will allow library users to move from floor to floor much faster than the old ones."

It's not because the speed of the elevators is faster, though. The old and new elevators move in the shaft at the same speed — 300 feet per minute. But Hubbard said that because the new controls are more efficient, the system will move the cab between floors more directly, and it will allow the maintenance depart-



Above: JSU's Miller Parnell (hatless), along with contractors, takes a test ride in the first of the newly installed elevators. The photo was shot in the reflection in the cab's mirrored ceiling. Below, left: The elevator shaft-- a study of perspective. Which way is up? Below, right: A ThyssenKrupp employee works toward putting the wheels in motion. (Steve Latham Photos)

ment more control. For example, the former system "parked" the cab of the library on the seventh and tenth floors. The new system, once completed, allows control over where the cabs will park. Say, if a large crowd is expected for a certain event, one elevator could be parked at the lobby level and another at the floor of the event.

Another new feature is an emergency power supply backup. The elevators will continue operating even if power goes out. There are other safety and efficiency controls that will take place once the project is completed.

The improvement to the elevator system is the library's first since it was built in 1972. There have been minor improvements made, however.

The entire library is under contract for renovation, which will include new carpeting, fresh paint, and other improvements. The work is being done by Hudak and Dawson, who subcon-

tracted the elevators to ThyssenKrupp. The elevator project should be completed by the start of the new academic year.



# New server, stations boost browsing

The library has added seven Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) workstations recently, bringing the on-site total to 41. Four of the new workstations are located in the high traffic area of the library lobby.

The remaining three workstations were added to the sixth floor music lab to facilitate access to the Classical Music database and other resources that require sound capabilities. In addition, the library has replaced its aging catalog server with a new model that will make catalog searches

much faster. The new server, a Sun Fire V240, has dual processors, three gigabytes of RAM and 144 gigabytes of hard disk space.

## Free scanning services offered at library

Do you need scanned documents or images to give your presentation extra 'punch'? Does your printed assignment require graphics?

Free scanning services are now available at Houston Cole Library at the second floor reference desk.

Items can be scanned for use in Power Point presentations, Web sites, and much more. Library staff can assist patrons in scanning documents and images to be printed, e-mailed, or saved to a disk. For more information, contact the Reference Desk at 782-8034.

## Norton is Cole honoree

Adam Norton, student assistant in the Audio Visual Department, is the recipient of the 2004 Martha Cole Award.

The Martha Cole Award is given annually to an outstanding student worker at Cole Library, and brings with it \$100 cash, which is deposited into the student's account, courtesy of the Friends of Houston Cole Library.



Norton

Adam is from Pell City and has been a Student Assistant in AV for three years. He has worked at every Graduation and every Visitation Day since the fall of 2001. Adam will graduate this April in Business Management and has GPA of 3.23.

## Coming & Going

**Bethany Skaggs** was recently hired as the Electronic Resources/Documents Librarian at Houston Cole Library.

Ms. Skaggs is a 2003 graduate of the MLIS program at the University of Alabama and is a 2001 graduate of Jacksonville State University. She was the Technical Services Assistant in Government Documents at JSU from August 2003 - January 2004, and was the Circulation Clerk and then Reference Assistant at Gadsden Public Library from 2001-2003.

Moving into the Government Documents Assistant position vacated by Skaggs will be **Elisha Thompson**, for-

merly at the Circulation Desk. Also new to the Technical Services Department is **Lori Alderman**, who also moves from the Circulation Desk.

She replaces **Ann Smail**, who retired April 1 after 25 years of service.

Filling the vacancies at the Circulation Desk will be **Tiffany Onkst**, who has previous experience at the Jacksonville Public Library; and **Patrick Bolack**, currently employed with JSU Safety and Security.

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is published each semester as a means of communication between the Library and the JSU community. Submissions and comments are welcome and may be sent to the following editors:

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For more frequent news updates from the Library, visit our online newsletter at  
[www.jsu.edu/depart/library/news/libnews.htm](http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/news/libnews.htm)

# Between the Stacks



## Cole staff gallops on

For the second year running, the faculty and staff of Houston Cole Library had the highest percentage of departmental participation campuswide at the annual Gamecock Gallop 5K race. At a recent library staff meeting, Jim McLaughlin of the Department (holding plaque) presented

the President's Award to the participants in the Nov. 15, 2003 race. From left, they are: Arland Henning, Sonja McAbee, Elisha Thompson, Kim Weatherford, Paula Barnett-Ellis, Cary Hill, Debra Deering, Hanrong Wang, John-Bauer Graham, Laurie Charnigo and Bill Hubbard.

## Barnett-Ellis, Griffin co-publish in *Academic Exchange Quarterly*

December 10, 2003 - Librarians Paula Barnett-Ellis and Luke Griffin published an article in *Academic Exchange Quarterly* (Volume: 7 Issue: 3) entitled "Faculty Use of Electronic Library Resources." The theme of this issue is The Many Faces of Information Competence.

## Three HCL Librarians published in *Technical Services Quarterly*

December 1, 2003 - Librarians John-Bauer Graham, Jodi Poe, and Kimberly Weatherford published an article in *Technical Services Quarterly* (Volume: 21 Issue: 2) entitled "Functional by Design: A Comparative Study to Determine the Usability and Functionality of One Library's Web Site". This issue is devoted to new trends in computers, automation, and advanced technologies in the techni-

cal operation of libraries and information centers.

## Charnigo shares outcome of two-year research project at Academe

January 29, 2004 - The information needs of historians was the topic of the January Academe presentation, made by Laurie Charnigo, education librarian.

During the seminar held on the 11th floor of HCL, Charnigo discussed the outcome of a two-year research project conducted with Dr. Margaret Dalton, professor of library and information science at the University of Alabama. Dr. Dalton, who holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of California-Berkeley, was formerly a reference librarian at Harvard University. Her books include *The Origin and Development of Scholarly Historic Periodicals* and *Public Libraries in Nazi Germany*, for which she received the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History.

Charnigo told Academe participants how historians in both research and history use information sources. In addition to the discussion of the sources historians deem important, Charnigo's talk outlined the way historians find sources, as well as what their preferences and priorities are in researching information sources. Her presentation followed two decades' transformation in the way information is delivered to scholars, as well as the changes both in the character and quantity of information that have affected the practices of historians.

## PLEASE NOTE

Beginning May Term 2004, Houston Cole Library will be open on the fall and spring semester schedule throughout the entire school year. Those hours (excluding holidays) will be:  
 Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
 Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Sunday: 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.

## Neal, Jackson entertain at spring Friends of HCL events

Patricia Neal, Professor of English at Spring Hill College in Mobile and member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation speakers bureau, presented "Jane Austen: Parlor to Trenches to Silver Screen," on **February 24 at the Library.**

Before one of the largest Friends audiences in recent years, Dr. Neal explored the enduring popularity of Jane Austen, 1775-1817, and her six complete novels.

Among the questions posed by Dr. Neal were: Why does an early nineteenth-century novelist repeatedly appear on *The New York Times* best seller list and provide manuscript and dialogue for successful movies? And, Why do we continue to be charmed by her?

At a time when women can expect to become physicians, engineers, or university professors, it is easy to forget such possibilities did not exist in Austen's world. The fixed order relied upon men marrying suitable wives and looking after female dependents.

Through her novels, Austen confronted the dilemma women faced: the importance of reconciling reason and emotion in considering (and

perhaps rejecting) a marriage proposal. Complex human relationships fascinated Austen, so with wit and irony she explored them in each novel.

Neal's presentation largely focused on Austen's attention to character definition through dialogue, and the successful projection of her complex characters onto film.

The Friends presentation was part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) 2003-2004 Speaker in the House program.

Jacksonville State University's Hardy Jackson was also an honored speaker for the Friends on March 9th as he spoke about his new book that gives a "personal history" of Alabama.

*Inside Alabama: A Personal History of My State* explores Alabama's cultural, political, and economic development from prehistoric times to the dawning of the new millennium.

"Alabama is my home," says Jackson, professor and chair of History and Foreign Languages at JSU. "This is the history I tell to people. The book has stories that I've been told, and there are stories I remember from growing up in Alabama."

The book's cover describes it as "An affectionate, irreverent, and candid look at the 'Heart of Dixie.'" It is written for both general readership and for students.

Jackson is a natural for telling a personal story of Alabama's history. He can trace his ancestry back to the time before Alabama became a state.

Jackson is the author of several books, including *Rivers of History: Life on the Coosa; Tallapoosa, Cahaba, and Alabama*; and *Putting "Loafing Streams" to Work: The Building of Lay, Mitchell, Martin and Jordan Dams, 1910-1929.*

### New shelving provides 'growing room'

The history, business and social sciences collections of the Library now have room to grow due to the recent acquisition of 54 sections of double-faced shelving. Twenty sections of the shelving have been installed on the third floor, with 34 more going in on the fourth floor. The money for the units was provided by Dr. Rebecca Turner, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

### Front Porch Picks

Engaging titles for summer reading

#### Fiction:

- *The Known World* / Edward P. Jones
- *Walking to Martha's Vineyard* / Franz Wright (Alfred A. Knopf)
- *A Sunday in June: a novel* / Phyllis Alesia Perry.
- *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* / Mitch Albom
- *The Last Juror* / John Grisham

#### Nonfiction:

- *Plan of Attack* / Bob Woodward
- *A Nation Under Our Feet* / Steven Hahn
- *Yellowstone story : a history of our first national park* / by Aubrey L. Haines.
- *Cradle of freedom : Alabama and the movement that changed America* / Frye Gaillard
- *Foolproof Guide to Growing Roses* / Field Roebuck

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