

# Top Shelf

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

June 2009

Volume 4, No. 3



## Woodruff Library Renovation is Underway: We're Open with Services Relocated to the Lower Level!



Café and Study Area (left) and Security Desk and Entry Area (right) in renovated Woodruff Library.  
Conceptual Rendering by: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott (Images are not representative of final design.)

The renovation of the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center has begun and signs of the construction are visible all around the Library!

The front half of the Main Level is closed for renovation. **Circulation Services, Information Services and the Research Consultation Center have been relocated to a temporary service area on the Lower Level in what was formerly the "Quiet Study" room.**

Book collections, furniture, exhibits and artwork have been relocated. Construction barriers have been placed or are in the process of being placed on each of the three floors for the safety of Library users.

But rest assured that through the duration of construction, AUC students and faculty will continue

to have access to all the Library resources needed for your academic programs:

- ◆ Main Level Circulating Collections have been relocated to the Upper Level stacks.
- ◆ The *Finding A Way* exhibit, complete with catalog and digital images, is available online ([www.auctr.edu](http://www.auctr.edu)).
- ◆ Theses and Dissertations are now available for in-house use in the Archives & Special Collections Department.
- ◆ Government Documents are available online. Ask for assistance in the Research Consultation Center.
- ◆ Current Periodicals, Microforms and Reference collections will remain accessible on the Main Level through the fall.
- ◆ Bound Periodicals and

Curriculum Materials Center materials (including media resources and children's books) are available using convenient paging services.

◆ For assistance getting any materials you need, see staff at the Circulation Services Desk.

For more information about renovation

related service changes, visit the Renovation Web site at:

[www.auctr.edu/renovation-site/index.asp](http://www.auctr.edu/renovation-site/index.asp), email: [libraryrenovation@auctr.edu](mailto:libraryrenovation@auctr.edu) or call 404-978-2067.

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## Morehouse King Collection Helps Researchers Explore King's Life

**I**t all started when a Birmingham, Ala., reporter read a newspaper story about the opening for research of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection (MCMLK).

Television anchor and reporter Valorie Lawson had been looking for a unique angle for a Black History Month story focusing on Dr. King's early career as a minister and activist in Birmingham. In that moment, she knew the research ready Morehouse King Collection would provide the information and relevance she needed to make her story viable.

Lawson is just one of the many researchers to access the Morehouse King Collection since it opened for scholarly research in January. Lawson and other researchers peruse the Morehouse King Collection Digital Finding Aid, identify materials in the collection for viewing and then access digital images during visits

to the Archives & Special Collections Reading Room at the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center.

During her site visit, Lawson not only viewed materials and made copious notes, she also interviewed MCMLK Collection archivists Bridget Lurette and Courtney Chartier on interesting facets of the collection and specific materials related to Dr. King's tenure as pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Her research visit resulted in two news reports which aired in March. In addition, Lawson chronicled her research experience using the Morehouse King Collection Digital Finding Aid and Digital Collection and the invaluable resources to which they provide access.

"The reporter's research visit truly illustrated the unique perspective this collection provides on



Dr. King and his work," said Chartier. "Church records within the collection show how King, 'the man', really struggled with how much his civil rights activities were pulling him away from his duties as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. He knew what he was doing in the Movement was right, but he also wanted to be the pastor and minister his parishioners needed him to be."

To view transcripts of the two stories which aired on WSFA-TV 12 in Birmingham or learn more about the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, visit the King web site at: <http://www.auctr.edu/mlkcollection/>.

## AUC's Mellon Scholars Get "Inside Look" at the Woodruff Library



*2009 Mellon Interns: (back row, l to r) Michael Hayes (CAU), Angelina Blanks (CAU), J'Nae Johnson (MLRP Coordinator), Stacy Marks (Spelman). (front row, l to r) Ethan Brisby (Morehouse), Tracey Coleman (CAU) and Walter Whitehead (CAU). Not pictured: Jane'a Johnson (Spelman) and Robert Alexander (Morehouse).*

**F**or the fourth consecutive year, the Woodruff Library has participated in the Mellon Librarian Recruitment Program (MLRP).

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this collaborative, multi-institution project

provides undergraduate (Mellon Scholars) and graduate (Mellon Fellows) students with an opportunity to learn more about the library profession.

Students are exposed to both academic and practical aspects of librarianship through curricular activities and

hands-on projects correlating with their field of study or interest.

Under the mentorship of Woodruff librarians, Spring 2009 Mellon Scholars explored diverse hands-on learning opportunities including:

- ◆ Archives and preservation

- ◆ Social media
- ◆ Communications and marketing
- ◆ Information literacy
- ◆ Specialized database tutorials

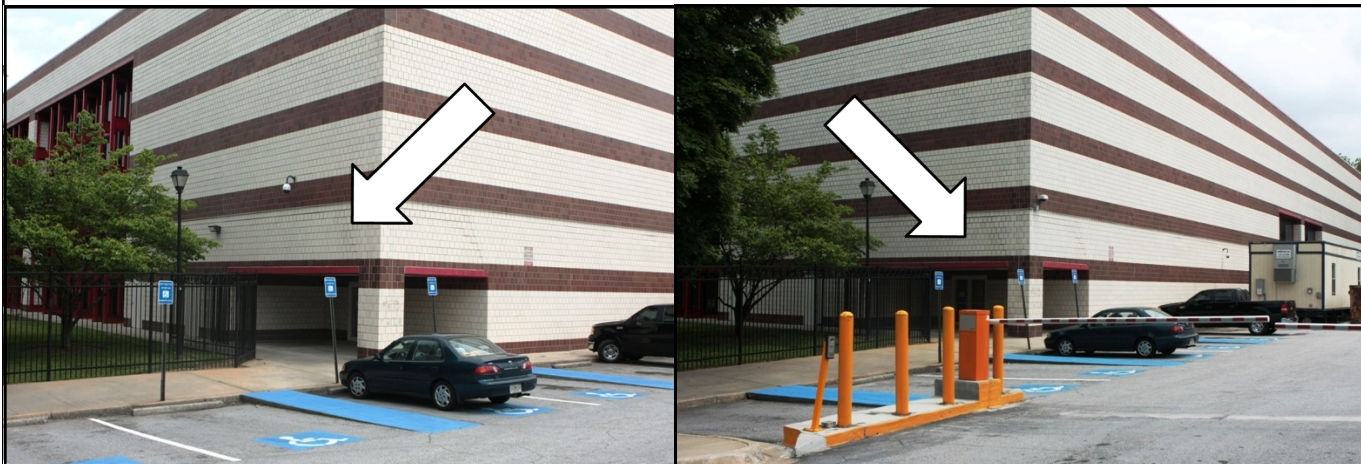
Since Spring 2005, a total of 33 Atlanta University Center students have participated in the MLRP program—14 from CAU, nine from Morehouse and 10 from Spelman.

Based on their participation, two students have earned master's degrees in library science, five are currently enrolled in library science programs and three have been awarded \$7,500 MLRP scholarships to support their graduate studies.

## Renovation Photo Gallery: We're Open...Come in!

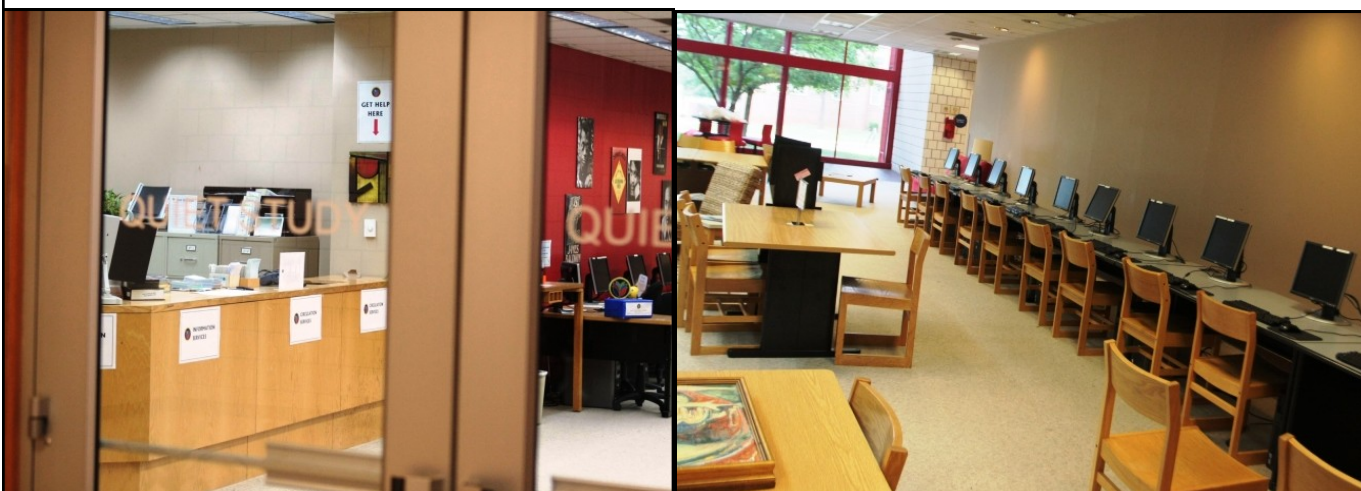
### Entering a New Era...

*Pictured here is the **temporary Woodruff Library entrance** Atlanta University Center students and faculty will use until the Main Level renovation is complete in December 2009. Just inside the glass doors (pictured on the right just beneath the arrow) and to the left is the temporary service area where relocated circulation, information and research consultation assistance will be provided. The area also includes temporary computing and study spaces.*



### ...of Renovation in Action!

*The Main Level may be closed for construction, but AUC students and faculty can still find Woodruff Library resources and staff in a temporary service area (pictured below) open until the Main Level renovation is complete in December.*



## AUC Students Read Iraqi Poetry, Discuss Publishing with Poets and Book Editors

On Tuesday, March 31, the strength and grace of art in war time was displayed at the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center during a reading of Iraqi poetry.

Former RWWL librarian Dan Veach, **Spelman College** English professor **Sharan Strange** and several AUC students read selections from the newly published poetry anthology, *Flowers of Flame: Unheard Voices of Iraq*.

Veach, founding editor of the *Atlanta Review* poetry journal, and guest speaker for the evening, Haider Al-Kabi, are two of the four co-editors who worked tirelessly in the United States and Iraq to bring to the world original poems illustrating the experiences and impressions of the Iraq War as captured by Iraqi artists.

Through their reading of selected works, Veach, Al-Kabi, Strange and a dozen of her Poetry Workshop students translated the pain, hope and despair of the Iraqi people. Veach and Al-Kabi also discussed the editors' and artists' determination to publish *Flowers of Flame* even in the face of war and oppression.

Just recently, critics honored the book of translated poems with the "Independent Publisher Book Award for Poetry." The book was selected from among poetry books written in or translated into English.



Top: Book editors Haider Al-Kabi (holding book on front row) and Dan Veach (second from right, back row) are pictured with student members of the **Spelman College** Poetry Workshop. Al-Kabi, Veach and the students read selections from the Iraqi poetry anthology, *Flowers of Flame: Unheard Voices of Iraq*. The reading was held at the Woodruff Library on March 31.

Bottom: AUC student authors and poets discuss the nuts and bolts of the publishing world with book editors Al-Kabi (front right) and Veach (back right). The March 31 poetry reading included selected readings, a question-and-answer session and a book signing.

## LIBRARY RENOVATION SERVICE CHANGES

### Woodruff Library Open During Renovation

Now until December 2009, library users will enter the Library from a Beckwith Street entrance at the rear of the building near the handicapped parking area. Security staff stationed just inside the entrance to the left will direct you to the main reading, study and computing areas, or to helpful Woodruff circulation and reference staff ready to assist you with all your library needs.

### Library Summer Hours Changed

#### Main Library:

Monday-Thursday — 7:30 AM-9 PM

Friday — 7:30 AM-6 PM

Saturday — Noon-6 PM

Sunday — 2 PM-9 PM

#### Archives & Special Collections:

Monday-Thursday — 1 PM-7 PM

Friday — 1 PM-5 PM

Saturday — Noon-5 PM

Sunday — CLOSED

### Renovation Updates — Available 24/7 on the Web

Get the latest information on the Library renovation at:

<http://www.auctr.edu/renovation-site/index.asp>.



## NEW FOR YOU DURING RENOVATION: Page Request Service!

More information?

Call 404-978-2097

Email: [circ@auctr.edu](mailto:circ@auctr.edu)

Visit: [www.auctr.edu](http://www.auctr.edu) and log on to the Woodruff Library Online Catalog

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Published four times a year  
for library users



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