Construction Begins on Library’s Outdoor Learning Space

Spring is the time for new beginnings and growth, and this semester the AUC Woodruff Library is breaking ground on a construction project that reflects this spirit of positive change. The project, known as the Phase II Renovation Project: Brawley Greenscape and Pedestrian Parkway, will transform the grassy lot across from the Library on James P. Brawley Drive into a flexible and shared-use space. The project is scheduled for completion by fall 2015.

“The greenscape and pedestrian parkway is to be an extension of the Library in which individuals can relax, study, and learn in a beautiful natural environment,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Director. “We’re seeking to create an area everyone can enjoy and use, which is why we involved diverse members of the AUC community in determining what the space would offer. Students, in particular, gave us great suggestions during the design process.”

Improvements will:
• add beauty and character with plants and trees;
• expand the usable space of the Library;
• upgrade the paved walkway;
• include a rain garden to capture and manage stormwater runoff;
• provide an outdoor teaching and learning place;
• improve entrance areas;
• add an outdoor Woodi Café dining area;
• foster interaction and collaboration within a natural environment; and
• accommodate use as a venue for small scale events.

Major demolition will begin in March 2015. Visitors to the Library can expect pedestrian re-routing for entrance to the building. Appropriate directional signage will be placed throughout the construction area.

The Phase II Renovation Project: Brawley Greenscape and Pedestrian Parkway is funded by The Woodruff Foundation and represents one of several ongoing green initiatives at the Library. For more information, contact nhutchinson@auc.edu.

Historic School Catalogs Available Online

Two new digital collections featuring historic academic catalogs are now available to the public for research on the AUC Woodruff Library’s online e-scholarship repository, DigitalCommons (digitalcommons.auctr.edu). The collections are Catalogs from Atlanta University (1869-1969) and Catalogs from Clark College (1879-1968) and are comprised of 67 volumes from Clark College and 99 volumes from Atlanta University.

Historic catalogs can serve as a rich resource for students, alumni, genealogists, and scholars of the history of African-Americans in higher education. The publications offer insight into the scholarly environment of the time in which they were produced. In addition to providing information on the degree programs and course offerings, the catalogs also include policies, procedures, statistics, financial costs, buildings, services, and names of administrators, board members, and faculty.

Early years of the catalogs also contain lists of matriculating students and alumni.
**Isaac R. Clark Memorial Collection Opens for Research**

The **Isaac R. Clark Memorial Collection** is open for research. Dr. Isaac R. Clark was a professor of homiletics at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, and a pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The manuscript collection provides a unique look at the development of Dr. Clark's distinct homiletical methodology (the art of preparing and delivering sermons) and career as a professor. The materials in the collection complement other holdings of the Archives Research Center on similar topics, such as African-American religion and African American higher education. It enhances related collections, including the ITC Photographs Collections, the C. Eric Lincoln Collection, and other African Methodist Episcopal Church materials, such as the African Methodist Episcopal Annual Conference Minutes Collection.

The **Isaac R. Clark Memorial Collection** spans the years from 1946 to 1990, with the bulk of the materials covering the years 1960 to 1989. The collection is comprised of course material, handwritten class outlines, correspondence, photographs, and other audio-visual holdings. The majority of the materials are related to his teaching career and the development of his rhetorical strategies for creating and delivering sermons. Beyond his individual classroom style, documents in the collection also provide a look at African-American religious education and the duties of Dr. Clark as an involved faculty member and administrator.

During his twenty-eight year tenure as a professor at ITC, he also served as registrar and director of the summer program. The collection includes correspondence, committee work, reports, and other items related to those administrative duties. Within Dr. Clark’s papers, of particular note, are reel-to-reel audio tapes which contain a record of lectures, ITC conferences, notable speakers, ITC chapel services, religious music, and class lectures. For more information on the **Isaac R. Clark Memorial Collection**, contact archives@aucr.edu or 404.978.2052.

**Funded Scholars Find Research Treasures in Archives**

Last spring the AUC Woodruff Library awarded its first research travel awards to promote scholarship of the historical and cultural holdings in the Archives Research Center. The awards of up to $1,500 are provided to scholars located beyond the geographic area of metro Atlanta. The recipients of the inaugural award were Dr. Jonathan Fenderson, assistant professor of African & African-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, and Vikram Tamboli, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Fenderson conducted research using the Hoyt W. Fuller Collection for his forthcoming book, *Advancing Blackness*, which explores the history of the Black Arts Movement through the experiences of the activist and organizer. According to Dr. Fenderson, his book will be one of the first major publications to address Fuller's influence on the Movement.

Dr. Fenderson has been a frequent visitor to the Archives Research Center in the past and was happy to be awarded funding to return. “I’ve travelled to many archives around the world, and I truly believe that the staff at the Archives Research Center is the best staff I have ever encountered. I enjoy everything about conducting research at the Archives,” said Dr. Fenderson. “In the last 5 to 7 years, I’ve made so many trips there, it’s almost become a second home. It’s just a great place with a great staff.”

As for any notable discoveries he found in the **Hoyt W. Fuller Collection**, he stated, “The best find in the collection for me this time around are the photographs. This was the first time I spent looking through the photographs. Hoyt Fuller pretty much documented the entire period through photographs. Anyone working on Black life during the 1960s and 1970s should consider his photo collection an extremely useful resource…There were a few other finds that really transformed the nature of my work, but I want to keep those to myself for now.”

Vikram Tamboli’s research was for his dissertation, “Decolonizing Heritage and Belonging in Guyana, 1935-2004,” in which he is attempting to construct a new approach to understanding the persistence of violence and socio-cultural factionalism in the postcolonial world.

“A central aim of my project is to challenge existent narratives of Guyanese state-formation and ethnic factionalism, which emphasize primordial difference between ethno-racial groups and/or reduce ethno-racial groups to mere pawns of late colonial and postcolonial political parties,” said Tamboli.

For his research, Tamboli used the **Walter Rodney Papers**. Pan-Africanist historian and educator Dr. Walter Rodney was best known for his
Art Exhibit on Display: Journey into the Heart of Northeast Brazil

Why book a plane ticket to embark upon a trip to view the cultural and historical riches of another land when you take the voyage through art? The traveling exhibition Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints – Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil is currently on display at the AUC Woodruff Library through May 18, 2015. On loan from the arts organization Con/Vida – Popular Arts of the Americas, the exhibition is making its premiere in the South and will be drawn into the colorful culture, history, and traditions that give meaning and cohesiveness to people’s lives in Brazil’s Northeast.

“We’re excited to have brought this impressive exhibition to Atlanta and host it at our Library,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Director. “Visitors will be drawn into the colorful culture, history, and economy, the popular heroes and heroic acts of resistance in the face of adversity, and the raucous escapades of legendary outlaws and bandits of Brazil’s “Wild West.” Visitors will also encounter the widely practiced spiritual traditions that give meaning and cohesiveness to people’s lives in Brazil’s Northeast.

“Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints – Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil was organized by Con/Vida–Popular Arts of the Americas with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michigan Humanities Council, with additional support from Wayne State University and the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

One of the works featured in the exhibit is Movement of the Landless by Jose Claudio Cavalcante de Azevedo from Salvador, Bahia. Acrylic on canvas, 2002.

Record Number of Online Research Guide Use

2014 was a great year for online research at the AUC Woodruff Library! Developed by our talented librarians, our research guides had 90,706 visits. That is quite a number, and we’re excited that we were able to assist so many students, faculty, and scholars with their research needs.

The Library’s research guides are an important and useful resource. Specific for each academic subject, each guide provides links to the best databases, lists of resources available in the Library, and other helpful information on that topic. In 2008, when the librarians first began creating them, there were only 38 research guides available. Today, there are 160, and our librarians are busy developing more!

Visit research.auctr.edu to view the subject listing for the research guides.

Spring 2015 Workshops for AUC Faculty

For a listing of upcoming Center for Integrating Teaching & E-Learning Technologies Unit head, at edecker@auctr.edu.

The exhibit is located on the AUC Woodruff Library’s upper level in the Virginia Lacy Jones Exhibition Hall.

Visit the research.auctr.edu/banditsheroes for directions and hours as well as additional information about the exhibition.

To learn more, about Con/Vida – Popular Arts of the Americas, visit www.convida.org. For information on the Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints – Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil exhibition, visit banditsandheroes.org.
Academic Writing Institute

Last semester the AUC Woodruff Library was awarded a sub-grant from the HBCU Library Alliance’s Expanding Library Support for Faculty Research Project to host an academic writing institute for AUC junior faculty. Scholarly publication is a potential minefield for junior faculty who are under pressure to publish in order to earn tenure. Entitled, “Publish or Perish? An Academic Writing Institute for AUC Junior Faculty,” the project was designed to:

- provide junior faculty with an overview of the services offered by the Library that can help facilitate their research process;
- introduce methods for documenting research findings in the 21st century publishing environment; and
- provide a forum, led by tenured faculty, to enhance participant knowledge about the publishing processes associated with their specific disciplines.

Sixteen junior faculty members participated in a two-day Academic Writing Institute hosted at the Library on December 15-16, 2014. The first day focused on research support services, and librarians provided overviews of the information services available to faculty including research consultation services; interlibrary loan; the faculty purchase recommendation process; and copyright and intellectual property issues. Institute participants also received information on the Library’s newly implemented discovery tool; online research and documentation tools; and the AUC e-scholarship repository.

The second day focused on the steps involved in the scholarly publishing process. Mick Gusinde-Duffy, editor-in-chief of the University of Georgia Press, served as guest speaker, providing a behind-the-scenes style informational tour for faculty which included information about the selection and editorial process, potential financial costs of publishing as they pertain to image rights, as well as funding opportunities for publication, such as subvention grants. Afterward, seven AUC tenured faculty scholars talked about their own unique experiences with the publishing process and held an informal discussion session with their junior colleagues.

Institute participants returned to the Library in January for a brown bag sharing session to discuss post-Institute writing progress and were inspired to form an AUC Junior Faculty Writing Circle, which meets weekly at the Library.

For more information about how the Library can support faculty research and writing efforts, contact Dr. Rosaline Odom, Discovery & Access Services department head and Academic Writing Institute coordinator at rodom@auctr.edu or 404.978.2129.

AUC junior faculty participated in a brown bag session to discuss their progress as part of a follow up activity after the academic writing institute.