John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers Open for Research

The AUC Woodruff Library’s Archives Research Center has opened the John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers for research. Calhoun was an Atlanta businessman, community leader, civil rights activist, and political organizer. The manuscript collection provides documentation on civil rights and the Atlanta business and political communities. It complements other collections in the Archives Research Center’s holdings on similar topics, including the Clarence Bacote Papers, Voter Education Project Organizational Records, Carl Ware Papers, and the Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records.

Comprised of correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and other items, the John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers collection span the years from 1916 to 2000, with the bulk of the materials from 1960 to 1979. The majority of the materials are from organizations with which he was affiliated, including Economic Opportunity Atlanta, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Atlanta Negro Voters League, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and others. In his role as an Atlanta city councilman, there are materials documenting his work with the Neighborhood Planning Unit’s proposal to expand the MLK Memorial District. There are also correspondences, meeting minutes, and agendas regarding his work with the Republican Party Committee. In the collection, of particular note, is a draft of his unpublished book Atlanta – The Cradle of Black Leadership in America.

For more information on the John H. Calhoun, Jr. Papers, contact archives@ auctr.edu or 404.978.2052. Research visits to the Archives Research Center are appointment only and must be made at least 24 business hours in advance.

Shakur Conference Proceedings Available Online

On September 28 and 29, 2012, the AUC Woodruff Library and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation hosted the first Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection Conference: “Hip Hop, Education and Expanding the Archival Imagination.” Hundreds of Hip Hop scholars, educators, students, archivists, and artists from around the country convened for this historic academic event that explored Shakur’s life and work as well as Hip Hop archives and studies. The conference proceedings are now available to the public online at digitalcommons.auctr.edu/tascc.

The offerings include scholarly papers, PowerPoint presentations, and videos of the conference sessions and keynote speakers.

The AUC Woodruff Library’s Archives Research Center houses the Tupac Amaru Shakur Collection, which features Shakur’s handwritten manuscripts, including song lyrics, track listings, video and album treatments, short stories, and poetry. Other materials include manuscripts written by the members of the Outlawz, media and publicity materials, correspondence and legal documents. Visit www.auctr.edu/archives to learn more.

Behind the Collection:
More on John H. Calhoun, Jr.

John H. Calhoun, Jr. was born July 8, 1889 in Greenville, South Carolina. He began working at the age of twelve as an apprentice to a blacksmith. A lifetime student, he graduated from high school at Virginia’s Hampton Institute in 1922 at the age of 23. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Morehouse College in 1937 at the age of 38 and a master of business administration degree from Atlanta University in 1968 at the age of 69. Calhoun had two children, Ninaking C. Anderson and Lt. Col. John H. Calhoun III. To support himself and his family, Calhoun held a variety of jobs that included work as a janitor, dock worker, bookkeeper, insurance salesman, real estate broker, newspaper reporter and editor. Community service and politics, however, were his true passions.

Calhoun moved to Atlanta in 1934, and for the next thirty years, he became affectionately known by many in Atlanta as “Your Man in Community Action.” In 1949, he and several others formed the Atlanta Negro Voters League and served with the Statewide Registration Committee (for Voter Education). In 1974, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council where he was instrumental in implementing a number of new initiatives. In addition, Calhoun received many awards and was very passionate about his volunteer activities in various organizations such as the Butler Street YMCA, Atlanta Business League, and Big Bethel AME Church. On May 6, 1988, he died at his home in Atlanta, Georgia.

Feature speaker Dr. Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar, vice provost of diversity and professor of history at the University of Connecticut, delivers his presentation “Tupac, Trap Music, and the Politics of the Prison Industrial Complex” at the 2012 Shakur Conference.
Inaugural Research Travel Awards Granted

The AUC Woodruff Library has awarded its first research travel awards to promote scholarship of the rich and unique historical and cultural holdings in its Archives Research Center. The awards of up to $1500 are provided to scholars located beyond the geographic area of Atlanta.

The winners of the inaugural award are 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. The awardee research period is for June 1 through December 15, 2014. Dr. Fenderson will be conducting research using the Hoyt W. Fuller Collection for a future publication on Fuller, and Tamboli will be studying the Walter Rodney Papers for use in his dissertation.

“The Archives Research Center staff members are pleased that our Library is providing this opportunity to support distant researchers interested in exploring our diverse manuscript and archival holdings,” said Andrea Jackson, head of the Archives Research Center. “The response was tremendous, as we received over 20 applicants in the first year of the award. I look forward to the continued success of this award leading to increased access, awareness, and use of materials in our vast collections.”

Available for research in the Archives Research Center are rare books and over 105 collections of manuscripts, photographs, and archival records documenting the African American and African diaspora experience in a broad range of subjects including civil rights, race relations, education, literature, visual and performing arts, religion, politics, and social work.

The announcement of the opening of applications for the 2015 research travel awards will be in early spring. Contact archives@ auctr.edu or 404.978.2052 for more information. Visit www.auctr.edu/archives to learn more about the Archives Research Center and browse the collections.

Library Debuts Enhanced Research Discovery System

The AUC Woodruff Library has upgraded its online catalog and technical services systems to a new cloud-based platform from the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), the creators of WorldCat. The recently integrated library management system called WorldShare Management Services (WMS) will provide several benefits and cost savings when compared to traditional library systems. The infrastructure and platform for WMS is hosted “in the cloud,” eliminating the need for installing and maintaining costly local hardware and software. The integrated nature of WMS allows libraries to share data, which leads to more accurate holdings information. Finally, this integrated interface will also result in radically improved workflows and greater efficiency for ordering, receiving, and cataloging library materials in all formats.

AUC students, faculty, and staff will notice that the AUC Woodruff Library’s migration to WMS has also allowed the Library to enhance its search interface. The new search interface is based on OCLC’s WorldCat Local platform and allows users to see search results from the AUC Woodruff Library as well as other libraries with holdings in WorldCat. The WorldCat database current provides holdings information for over 2 billion items from more than 70,000 libraries worldwide. In addition to the new search interface, Library users will also notice an improved online A-Z index for discovering and accessing electronic journals as well as a new interface for retrieving items from course reserves.

“We hope that these new upgrades to our services and systems further illustrate our commitment to being the first and best choice for our users in their search for information,” said Michael Chomey, head of the AUC Woodruff Library’s Content & Collection Management department.

If users have any questions related to the new system, they can contact their department’s designated subject librarian, or stop by the Research Consultation Center located on the Library’s Main Level for a quick tutorial and introduction to the new system.

For questions, contact askref@auctr.edu.

Digitizing Memories: Clark College and Clark Atlanta University Yearbooks Now Online

In spring 2014, the AUC Woodruff Library completed a digitization project to provide online access to the yearbooks of Clark College and Clark Atlanta University. Full-color digital surrogates (digitized versions of physical materials) of these yearbooks are now accessible via the Library’s online e-scholarship, DigitalCommons. The launch of the collection occurred in conjunction with the college’s 25th Anniversary celebration, which was recognized during the institution’s Founders’ Week on March 16-23.

The Clark College and Clark Atlanta University yearbooks are a rich resource for current students and alumni, as well as scholars of the history of African American higher education. Spanning the years 1926 to 2013, the collection is comprised of 63 volumes and more than 12,000 individual images. Prior to digitization, the yearbooks were available only to patrons who visited the Library’s Archives Research Center. The yearbooks are frequently used and are especially popular with alumni, genealogists, and those researching the history of fraternities and sororities.

The Clark College and Clark Atlanta University yearbooks digitization project was one that had been in the planning stages for some time at the Library and came to fruition last year.

“Digitization of collections such as the yearbooks enhances access to specialty resources of the Atlanta University Center and increases its visibility as an intellectual center,” said Elizabeth McClenny, deputy director of the AUC Woodruff Library.

The Library’s Digital Services Unit was involved in all stages of the digitization project which took several months to complete. Clark Atlanta University’s Office of Alumni Relations was helpful in the process, providing copies of several missing issues.

Future digitization projects for the AUC Woodruff Library will be selected based on criteria including use, condition, and value for research. Collections containing obsolete audio and video formats are targeted as priority for digitization because of their inherent fragility and short shelf life expectancy. Visit digitalcommons.auctr.edu/cauyrbks to search and view the Clark College and Clark Atlanta University Yearbooks collection.
Inspiring Creative Thought: The Knowledge & Arts Initiative

Our surroundings can significantly influence our thoughts and emotions, which is why the art on display throughout the AUC Woodruff Library is such an important part of the space. With the goal of creating an intellectually and visually stimulating library environment for students and faculty, the Library established the Knowledge & Arts Initiative. First implemented during the Library’s phase one renovation in 2010, the initiative seeks to promote student ownership of the Library, convey the human experience, and inspire student thought and conversations through the visual arts.

Created by talented local and national artists, the works featured in the building are across multiple mediums and themes. Bold and compelling, every piece makes its own powerful statement. Currently, there are more than 270 of loaned and Library-owned art pieces on display. Selected works are replaced on a rotational basis not only to keep the art in the building fresh and interesting but also to showcase different and exciting artists.

“Installing the art has enlivened our library. Visitors frequently comment how it creates a vibrant and welcoming environment,” said Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director. “People are very interested in the pieces and seek out information about the art and artists alike. We’re pleased that we can offer such a rich art collection that is not only educationally enriching but also aesthetically pleasing.”

In addition to the art in the Library, the Knowledge & Arts Initiative includes exhibitions and programming. Examples include the AUC Alumni Artists Exhibit, organized and hosted by the Library, and an artist talk held last spring featuring photographer and Morehouse College alumnus Ross Oscar Knight. More recently, the Library will be hosting the traveling exhibit Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil to Open.

The AUC Woodruff Library is hosting the traveling exhibit Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil. On display in the Library’s Exhibition Hall from September 7, 2014 through May 18, 2015, this will be the Southeast premiere of this remarkable exhibit, which was organized by Con/Vida – Popular Arts of the Americas and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History and funded with support by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michigan Humanities Council. Comprised of paintings, prints, sculptures, and other materials created by a diversity of artists, the exhibit celebrates the rich and colorful culture, life, and people of the Northeast of Brazil. Visit www.auctr.edu to learn about the exhibit and related programs.

Go for the Gold or Green? Issues in Open Access Publishing

There are ongoing debates and conversations surrounding the open access movement and its impact on the future of scholarly communication. Open access is the practice of making scholarly research available online in digital format for free and immediate access with limited or no copyright restrictions. Anyone is able to copy, distribute, or use/reuse the material with the appropriate citation of the author and original source.

One of the most confusing components is the different types of open access models, especially “gold” versus “green.” What is meant by gold and green open access? Gold open access refers to a publishing model in which articles are published as open access by commercial publisher or in a typical peer-reviewed open access journal that is financed either upfront through publishing fees or through public or private funds.

At the other end of the spectrum is green open access. Green open access eliminates the traditional publishing structure and refers to a model where researchers self-archive their work in online repositories. These repositories can be affiliated with one’s home institution, or discipline specific (e.g. arxiv.org for physics). The AUC Woodruff Library supports green open access through its e-scholarship repository, DigitalCommons (digitalcommons.auctr.edu), which allows faculty to self-archive their work. So, the next time someone asks you “Are you for green or gold open access?” You’ll know what they’re talking about!

For more information on green or gold open access, see Open Access Overview created by Dr. Peter Suber, Director, Harvard Office of Scholarly Communication, at legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm. For more information on AUC initiatives, see the AUC Woodruff Library’s research guide, research.auctr.edu/scholcomm, on open access and scholarly communication.

Students converse in front of Faces of Color, commissioned portraits done by artist Jonathan Romain that represent students from the four Atlanta University Center schools.
Celebrating Maynard Jackson’s Legacy

This past May, Atlanta’s Office of Cultural Affairs marked its 40th anniversary and celebrated legacy of its founder former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson with an event hosted by current Mayor Kasim Reed. Held in conjunction with the city’s 37th Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival, the celebration took place in the historic Oakland Cemetery, home to Mayor Jackson’s burial site.

In addition to live jazz performances, there was a multimedia exhibit presented in partnership with the AUC Woodruff Library that told the story of Mayor Jackson’s inauguration, his founding of the Office of Cultural Affairs, and his impact on the arts in Atlanta.

The exhibit included selected materials from the Library’s Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records collection. Also on display were photos from Atlanta photographers Jim Alexander and Sue Ross, as well as documents and images from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Atlanta Daily World.

Housed in the Library’s Archives Research Center, the Maynard Jackson Mayoral Administrative Records collection is open to the public for research. The traveling exhibit The People’s Mayor: Maynard Jackson and the Politics of Transformation is available for hosting. To learn about the collection or the exhibit, contact archives@auctr.edu.

Woodi Café

Stop by the Woodi Café where you can enjoy coffee, baked goods, sandwiches and more.

Located on the main level.

Hours
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

404.978.2134