University of Georgia News and Notes
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The National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a grant in the amount of $90,000.00 to Georgia State University Library to digitize portions of this controversial union’s records and make them available online. The PATCO records are already part of Georgia State’s Southern Labor Archives. Work on the project is expected to take approximately 20 months; at its completion, all scanned documentation (about 179,000 pages of text) will be searchable, for free. The project will begin in April 2011.

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The Library’s Events @ The Library Program hosted a Banned Books Week event in which GSW students, faculty, and staff participated in a trivia contest. Each day a question regarding a banned book was sent by email to students, faculty, and staff members. All entrants who turned in a correct answer for the day were placed in a drawing pool, from which one student and one faculty/staff member were chosen as winners. The program also hosted the Library Holiday Tree Event where patrons made ornaments to decorate the library’s holiday trees. The Events @ The Library Committee is gearing up to co-host an event with Hurricane Otaku, the new student anime club, at which the animated “Transformers: The Movie” (1986) will be shown.

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After serving more than three decades in state and local government including two terms as Georgia’s governor, Sonny Perdue has committed his political papers and memorabilia to the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia. By a special arrangement with the Georgia Archives, the Russell Library will house both the former governor’s personal and official state papers. This collection joins the papers of 13 other Georgia governors.

“The addition of Sonny Perdue’s papers means that Russell Library now holds more than half the personal papers of modern Georgia’s governors,” said Sheryl Vogt, director of the library. “We are happy that the legal agreement with the state archives allows us to house these records.”

“Governor Perdue’s papers continue the cornerstone documentation provided by the state’s past leaders, which reveal the rich and complex nature of Georgia’s modern history,” Vogt said. “Researchers will have great interest...
in Governor Perdue’s collection not only because he was the first Republican governor since 1871 but also he served during a period challenged by significant population growth, environmental challenges, and economic decline.”

In 2002, Perdue launched a gubernatorial campaign against incumbent Roy Barnes. He campaigned for governor on a platform of restoring public trust in state government and defeated Barnes with 52 percent of the vote. From 2003 through 2010, Perdue concentrated his efforts on improving transportation, safety, education and ethics in government. He established the Commission for a New Georgia, which studied management issues within state government and focused on improving customer service in state agencies. His work on conservation culminated in the introduction and subsequent passing of the Georgia Land Conversation Act, which was signed into law in 2005. Together as Governor and First Lady, the Perdues pursued initiatives involving the needs of children in the state, particularly those in foster care. Gov. Perdue won re-election in November 2006 against former Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor. Following his departure from office, the former governor resides with his wife, Mary, in Bonaire.

Governor Perdue’s official papers include executive files, which consist of subject files generated by his administration including those of his assistants and others pertaining to legislators, agencies and organizations, and counties. These records also contain proclamations, scheduling files, Legal Division records, Public Officials Commission records, and External Affairs files. Perdue’s personal political files include those pertaining to his campaigns, his work in the State Senate, clippings, the Commission for a New Georgia, and those of the First Lady. Photographs, artifacts, and audio-visual material are a part of both the official and personal papers.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault came full circle Jan. 10 when she donated her personal papers to the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies as part of the 50th anniversary celebrating her role in desegregating the University of Georgia. Hunter-Gault and the late Hamilton Holmes were the first black students to attend UGA, followed by Mary Frances Early who entered graduate school several months later. “She took a brave step when she walked onto campus 50 years ago,” said Sheryl B. Vogt, director of the Russell Library, “and she took another first step by establishing the Library’s first African-American woman’s collection. Mrs. Hunter-Gault’s donation takes us another step in our commitment to collect materials that comprehensively document the full spectrum of political life and public policy in Georgia.”

“One cannot overstate the value of this donation to the Russell Library. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Hamilton Holmes, and Mary Frances Early were among that early generation of pioneers who blazed a path of equal opportunity and inclusion that challenged us to be better at every level,” said Robert Pratt, UGA history professor who wrote a book about the desegregation struggle. “For that reason, their insights and perspectives during those turbulent years are invaluable. Charlayne’s papers will be immensely valuable not only to contemporary scholars but to future generations as well. UGA should consider itself most fortunate to have access to this prized possession.”

Hunter-Gault’s collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings and other papers relating to her experience integrating UGA and her early career as a journalist. There are also documents and memorabilia relating to her personal and family life. The research materials and drafts of her 1993 biography In My Place are also in the collection. “While these early papers are content rich and will be welcomed by researchers,” Vogt said, “we are as excited about the opportunity to work with Mrs. Hunter-Gault to document her career as a prize-winning journalist and further enhance the library’s holdings with materials that will contribute to women’s studies and issues of national and global significance.”

“By honestly and thoughtfully reflecting upon how we construct race relations locally and globally, and the stakes Georgians have in this project, the papers of Charlayne Hunter Gault help fulfill the University’s mission to serve all the citizens of this state,” said Barbara McCaskill, an English professor and co-director of the Civil Rights Digital Library project. “Most importantly, her papers remind us that the African American freedom struggle did not intend to remake the country into a colorblind society. A true revolution in mindset, where ordinary Georgians like Charlayne and Hamilton Holmes and Mary Frances Early undertook courageous roles, it was about learning to see differences, to honor them, and to choose to love rather than fear them.”

Hunter-Gault received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from UGA in 1963. She wrote for The New York Times for eight years and then was long associated with PBS’s MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. Following an assignment as chief Africa correspondent for National Public Radio, she accepted a position as CNN’s bureau chief and correspondent in Johannesburg. Her numerous awards for reporting include two Peabody Awards for her coverage of Africa.
“While some of the events during those early days 50 years ago might have caused my dream to turn into a nightmare, I am here today having fulfilled my dreams beyond even my wildest expectations, because good people did the right thing — in the past and in that challenging present,” Hunter-Gault said.

Answering questions from the audience, Hunter-Gault fondly recalled the relationships she developed with people who reached out to her, in particular, English professors Frances Wallis and Dorothy McCullough.

“As I recently recalled … we had many stimulating discussions, not about racism and intolerance, but about topics ranging from the works of J.D. Salinger to Yevgeny Yevtushenko to William Shakespeare, and the poems of Robert Frost that relieved me ever so briefly from that burden,” Hunter-Gault said. “For a while, when I had to daily confront the hostile reaction to me as a racial symbol, my visits to Miss Wallis’ apartment helped reinforce my existence as a normal human being and also to keep my eye on the prize of fulfilling my dream of becoming a journalist.”

Fred Mills had quite a reputation — as a virtuoso trumpet player, an inspirational teacher, an enthusiastic performer and as someone whose generosity was unparalleled. Mills joined the University of Georgia (UGA) School of Music in 1996 to establish its trumpet program after traveling for nearly 25 years with the legendary Canadian Brass. Mills’ life ended in a September, 2009 car accident when he was returning to Athens from an overseas performance.

“In recognition of the tremendous contributions that Fred made to the music world, of the scores of people around the world who were touched by his life and teaching, and particularly the wonderful brass program at the University of Georgia, to which he devoted his post-Canadian Brass life, his family felt that it was fitting for his collection — scores of original compositions, recordings, videos, posters and artifacts — to be housed in the UGA Libraries, where they can continue to benefit people for years to come,” said Robert Sutherland, a longtime friend of Mills and chief librarian of the Metropolitan Opera.

More than a dozen trumpets from Mills’ collection of brass instruments will be housed at the UGA School of Music, where they will be checked out by students for use in the ensembles and work on lesson and recital assignments. “It’s a wonderful resource to have for our students,” said Brandon Craswell, assistant professor of trumpet in the music school.

Mills recorded more than 40 albums with the Canadian Brass and was nominated for a Grammy in 1992. He was a founding member of the American Symphony Orchestra, was principal trumpet for the New York City Opera and was the founding principal trumpet of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in 1969. He was, prior to that appointment, principal trumpet of the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra.

At the age of 23, Mills was hired by Leopold Stokowski to play principal trumpet in the Houston Symphony. Stokowski later appointed him the founding principal trumpet of the American Symphony Orchestra.

“The extraordinary artistry of the Canadian Brass, accompanied by a charismatic performance on stage, created new brass fans the world over, and Fred Mills was at the core of that vision,” said Dale Monson, Director of the UGA Hodgson School of Music. “Fred lived to play the trumpet, and his standards and devotion inspired all his students.”

Because of the immense size of the collection it will not be available to the public until the opening of the new UGA Special Collections Libraries Building, set for fall 2012.

Georgia Perimeter news and notes

Amelia Glawe joined the GPC faculty as Reference/Instruction Librarian at the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College in January 2011.

In February, Georgia Perimeter College, in cooperation with the Polish Club of Atlanta, hosted the international exhibit, “Katyn: Massacre, Morality, Politics,” which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the massacre. The exhibit, which chronicles the tragedy with panels, documents, and photographs, was displayed February 10 through 26 on the third floor of GPC’s Jim Cherry Learning Resource Center. The exhibition was produced by Polish historian Andrzej Przewozniak and Poland’s Council for the Protection of the Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom. Its appearance at GPC is...