

## 2003 Annual Library Report

**University Library.** The library's focus on service expanded this year to participation in the nationally administered LibQual+ survey which "is a research and development project undertaken to define and measure library service quality across institutions and to create useful quality-assessment tools for local planning."<sup>1</sup> The results from the survey will be studied in 2003-04 in an effort to strengthen the library. The reference unit implemented a live chat reference service and introduced a web-based tutorial, BILT, designed by the reference librarians. The nursing library, formerly housed at Baptist Medical Center, Montclair was moved and integrated into the University Library.

The University Library was one of 30 institutions chosen to participate in the Project for the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) led by Kent State University. "The purpose of the SAILS Project is to develop an instrument for programmatic level assessment of information literacy skills that is valid and thus credible to university administrators and other academic personnel." Participation began in June 2003.

The library hosted two Live at the Library events. At homecoming Terry Kay, award-winning novelist and screenwriter, entertained the audience with his personal journey and advice on becoming a writer. Andrew Manis, author of Fred Shuttlesworth's biography, *The Fire You Can't Put Out*, discussed the significance of Shuttlesworth in Birmingham's history and in the civil rights movement as one program in the *Before You Travel On: Reflections on the Fortieth Anniversary of the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement Series*. Two workshops, one which focused on government documents and another which focused on academic freedom, highlighted the in-service program.

Exhibits included "It's All About Color" by Ed Whitfield, the "Artwork of Irva Hayward," and "Editorial Illustrations" by Richard Dendy. The library also hosted an exhibition of Birmingham Snapshots, 1900-1950, containing amateur photographs selected from more than 400,000 images preserved in the Birmingham Public Library Archives and the University wide Earth Day 2003 Art Exhibition.

**Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.** The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research had a successful conference with 190 students and 22 faculty. 28 states and Canada were represented by attendees. Samford University's reputation as one of the most significant educators of genealogists continues to grow. IGHR offered a workshop in the Spring on *Researching Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors Workshop* which was well attended by the local community.

**Faculty Achievement.** Among the staff contributing leadership in their professional organizations was Beth Ashmore serving on the Teaching Methods Committee of the Instruction Section of American Library Association's (ALA) Association of College and Research Libraries Division (ACRL). Ed Cherry served on the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) Cornerstone Central Site working group. Della Darby coordinated the Alabama Chapter of ACRL Best Practices programs for the Alabama Library Association Convention (ALLA), served as Newsletter Editor for AACRL and as a member of College, University and Special

Libraries (CUS) Research Committee, ALLA. Lori Northrup served on the CUS Research Committee and the ad hoc Committee for Solicitation of Centennial Papers for the ALLA 2004 Convention. Sue Peterson was selected as the Alabama representative for AACRL at National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. and as a member of the NAAL Online Content Committee. Jennifer Taylor served as navigator for the Society of American Archivists and Carla Waddell as Member-at-Large for Programs 2003-2005 of CUS, ALLA. Jean Thomason served as chair of the Membership Committee of NAAL, on the Executive Council of NAAL, immediate past chair of AACRL, on the Recruitment for Academic Librarianship Task Force, a facilitator for programs at the ALLA Convention, and as a member of a Southern Association Candidacy Committee.

Della Darby and Jennifer Taylor presented a poster session at ALLA convention. Elizabeth Wells and Jean Thomason led a workshop for the Monroeville Historical Society. Elizabeth Wells made presentations for Emmett O'Neal Library, The Alabama Baptist, Etowah Chapter SAR, Old Elyton Chapter DAR, 17th Century Colonial Dames, and the Hoover Scout Troop. Carla Waddell was a panelist for the presentation Taking Continuing Education into the 21st Century: A Teleconference Model and presented a poster session: Revamping and Renewing: Incorporating Active Learning into Freshman-Level Instruction Sessions at the 2002 South Carolina Library Association & Southeastern Library Association joint conference. Jean Thomason served as a panelist on the Who Speaks for Birmingham program sponsored by the Before You Travel On Series and presented a program on Orientation Sessions at the ALLA.

**Faculty Development.** Library staff attended national and regional conferences including those hosted by Alabama Library Association, American College and Research Libraries, American Library Association, EDUCOM, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, National Society for Genealogy, Society of American Archivists, SOLINET, Southeastern Library Association and workshops on the Virtual Reference Desk and the USA-PATRIOT Act.

<sup>1</sup>Association of Research Libraries. Frequently Asked Questions About LibQUAL+TM. 2003  
<http://www.libqual.org/About/FAQ/index.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup>Kent State University Library and Media Services. Project Description. April 10, 2003.  
<http://sails.lms.kent.edu/projdescription.html>.