Civil Rights Activist’s Papers Donated To Archives
Ledell Smith
Archivist

The desire to secure the papers and materials from the office of the late civil rights activist, A. Z. Young, was expressed to Mr. Ben Jeffers, Governor’s Chief of Staff, in 1994, when he participated in the John B. Cade Library’s celebration of African-American History Month. Mr. Jeffers later conveyed this request to Mrs. A. Z. Young.

At the beginning of this semester, Mrs. Young made a generous donation of some of Mr. A. Z. Young’s awards, pictures, plaques, certificates of appreciation and recognition, proclamations, and resolutions that he received during his lifetime dedication of service for human rights to the Southern University Archives.

The library was delighted to receive the collection. The information will be helpful in research assignments during African-American History Month and on other occasions. A number of requests from students have been received during the past years for information about Mr. A. Z. Young.

Mr. Albert Z. Young was born October 31, 1921 in Bogalusa, Louisiana to Tom and Alberta Young. A graduate of Central High School, he married the former Dorothy Brister. He was the father of two children, Sherell and Ricky.

Mr. Young was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Bogalusa until he and his family moved to Baton Rouge, where they became members of Mt. Zion First Baptist Church.

A man of character, intelligence, and wisdom, he was a longtime civil rights activist, who challenged an often harsh and insensitive society. Mr. Young served in the U.S. Army under General George S. Patton. After completing his military duties, he returned to Bogalusa and established a taxi cab business.

Later he worked for Crown-Zellerbach and served as President of the AFL-CIO Local 624, an all-African-American union. When the African-American and White unions merged in later years, Mr. Young held the position of general Vice-President for two years.

In 1964, Mr. Young became the president of the Bogalusa Civic and Voter's League, a group organized to help African-Americans become more conscientious of the need to participate in the political process, to exercise their right to vote, and to make strides toward ending the powerful hold of segregation on their communities. Mr. Young captured the desire to secure the papers and materials from the office of the late civil rights activist, A. Z. Young, was expressed to Mr. Ben Jeffers, Governor’s Chief of Staff, in 1994, when he participated in the John B. Cade Library’s celebration of African-American History Month. Mr. Jeffers later conveyed this request to Mrs. A. Z. Young.

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Footnotes

Continued from page 1

technology and a new work environment. So it makes sense to hire those most likely both to maintain their current capabilities and to develop new capabilities to match new needs. The so-called plateaued or burnt-out individual, that is, the person who has contributed well for years, has reached a high salary, but is not performing adequately anymore, can pose a challenge as well as a real dilemma for an organization. An organization with low performers with bad attitudes, who are too aggressive, constantly demanding management time/attention, combative, uninterested in personal development and in constant conflict with others, need to re-evaluate the worth of these persons to the organization. Anyone who takes a disproportionate amount of management time is a serious drain on an organization because of the prodigious amount of time it takes from moving the organization forward. Remember to hire well and take the time you need to hire the very best person available. •

Students Win Word Search

Kathryn Johnson
Co-Editor

During National Library Week, part of the fun and games included a crossword puzzle and a word search puzzle for which prizes were awarded upon completion. The first students to turn in a correctly completed puzzle were awarded prizes. Student winners of the NLW’95 world search puzzle were: First place—Randall Lolis, graduating senior in Political Science, who received a gift certificate for dinner for two at Piccadilly’s Family Restaurant, as well as coupons for fries and a burger from McDonald’s. (Lolis has expressed how delicious his meals were and appreciates the certificates.) Terica Dobson second place, who was awarded coupons for burgers and fries from McDonald’s and Burger King and Shanell Whims, third place, who also received a coupon for a burger and fries from McDonald’s. The library staff appreciates the enthusiasm with which the students participated in all of the NLW activities. •

Quote of the Month ---

“Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.”—Will Durant, American historian

From the Editors' Corner!!!

My secret joy in life is pulling weeds. Yes, I love to pull weeds. Last Saturday morning, I spent two blissful hours in the warmth of the early morning, the sweat running down my face and from under my armpits, pulling weeds out of my loriope. When I finished, not a blade of straw grass could be seen. The majestic loriope with its vividly verdant blades stood alone in the flower bed, once again able to spread its seeds unhindered. One does derive joy from doing a job well, no matter what the job. In this day of terrorists, uncertainties about life as we fast approach the twenty first century, it does the soul good to stop and smell the roses and yes, pull the weeds from among the flowering plants. When one enjoys life, pleasure can be milked from the smallest source, the simplest task. At the reference desk or at any place in the library, the joy does not always come from being able to get on the internet and answer the big reference question, (though that does give one a thrill); it comes sometimes from shelving books or listening to the deaf student who sometimes only wants to find an unabridged dictionary. Those are simple tasks. But, oh, it is so satisfying to help in this small way. •

Kathryn Johnson
Co-Editor

Books & Bytes Newsletter Staff

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Dean of Libraries

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Books and Bytes is published bimonthly by John B. Cade Library. Material submitted to the newsletter should be turned in by 4 p.m. no later than the second Monday before the upcoming issue. The Books & Bytes staff reserves the right to edit and accept materials for publication. For more information call (504) 771-2875.
The library recently received a gift of three microfiche readers from Agnes Andrews, local Allstate insurance agent for over 10 years. The readers are used in the Government Documents/Periodicals area where the microfiche collection is housed. Charlotte Henderson, Serials Librarian, says that the readers are a welcome addition. They were badly needed. Before the gift of these three readers, the area had only one working fiche reader.

Andrews is a 1973 Home Economics graduate of Southern University. She is married to Dr. Don Andrews, a professor in the College of Business. They have three children—Omari, 13; Kinda, 10; and Nayo, 3.

Having helped other Southern University departments in the past through the Allstate Foundation, Andrews stated: “When Allstate moved to online technology, the readers were no longer needed in the office. I thought of the library as a possible user for them. I’m always happy to be of any assistance feasible in the future, as well.”

Later he was appointed Director of the Office of Civil Rights, under the Department of Health and Human Resources. Through this position, Mr. Young was still able to monitor and support the struggle for Civil Rights. In 1975, he was selected by Governor Edwards to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Human Services.

Other appointments between 1976 and 1990 included: Principal Assistant to the Secretary-Department of Health and Human Resources, State of Louisiana; Administrative Director, State Maintenance, Inc.; Director of Party Development-State Democratic Party; and Legislative Lobbyist-Champion Insurance Company. He was Assistant to the Commissioner of Election and Registration from 1990 until his health failed in 1993. He died December 1, 1993.

For more information on Mr. A. Z. Young, visit the Archives located on the third floor of the Cade Library, or call 771-2854 during Archive hours. The Archives, a special collection, is open from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:00-5:00 p.m. weekdays, except Tuesdays and closed on weekends and nights.
A Master In His Own Right
Awumah, Three Degree Programmer/Analyst Speaks Out
Kathryn Johnson

Co-Editor

Johnson Awumah, Systems Programmer/Analyst, joined the John B. Cade Library staff in 1993. As a part of the Systems Office, he complements perfectly the expertise of Dawn Kight, Systems Librarian. Johnson brings to the Systems Office a dynamic range of knowledge with three masters degrees in related fields: Infomatics, Computer Science, and Library and Information Science. Originally from Ghana, his degree in Infomatics, which is an economics related field, was obtained from the University of World and National Economy, Bulgaria. He is recognized in the library as a person who gets the job done. Books & Bytes co-editor Kathryn Johnson talked with Johnson about his motivations and future plans.

B&B: What work experience do you bring to the Library?

Awumah: I came to the United States in February, 1992. I worked at LSU as assistant to the editors of RQ, for almost two years, where I operated the computer in my job. I also worked as a lab assistant in the computer laboratory at LSU. I received my master degree in Library and Information Science from LSU in May, 1993.

B&B: What motivated you to come to the library as a computer scientist?

Awumah: My love for information. With an Infomatics major and a strong emphasis in economics, coming to library science would afford full use of such a background.

B&B: Will you explain some of the highpoints or highlights of your career so far?

Awumah: The ability to install or bring the Library’s NOTIS system from 4.6.1 to 5.1.1 is the highlight of my career so far. I was able to bring the Library’s NOTIS system up four levels. This seemed to be an impossible task at the beginning. The old NOTIS system was working at a very low level, and coming into this situation “cold” was very, very difficult. But, I was able to call upon my training, knowledge, experience and resources and was able to successfully bring it up four levels. This will always be something I can look back on and draw confidence from.

B&B: What are your future career plans?

Awumah: Having an MLIS degree and working in a library setting lets me see how computer science can answer real life problems. I can blend this experience with past experiences and use this knowledge in any field that I choose later in life, such as, being an independent information consultant. Through my endeavors I have learned diverse cultures, languages, etc. which are rich resources apart from my education. I speak seven languages fluently. Coming from Ghana, of course I speak Ga. I also speak Bulgarian, Russian, English, Serb, Ewe, and Twi [the latter two are also African languages]. I understand and read German, French, Italian, Spanish and Finnish.

B&B: Have you seen the movie, The Net? It’s a computer related thriller.

Awumah: No, I haven’t, but I will go to see it. I don’t go to movies much.

B&B: Awumah, I always like to end interviews on a philosophical note. What is your philosophy of life? What keeps you going in today’s society?

Awumah: I believe in destiny. I also believe that God has a plan for everyone. Each person needs to do his best to achieve this plan that God has for him. Any position that I attain will be for the glorification of God and mankind around me. I believe in persistence and hard work and that hard work will pay off.

Awumah: I love sports. I play soccer very well, and also ping-pong. I was on the ping-pong team in school. I also like to play lawn tennis; I like to jog in the mornings. My favorite book of all times is Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn. However, I loved Roots by Alex Haley. I love to read fiction in my spare time to relax. A favorite author is James Hadley Chase, who writes hi-tech sci-fi novels.

B&B: What do you do for relaxation? What are your hobbies, favorite book, movies, etc?

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Librarians Make It Happen

Librarians are charged with the awesome responsibility of providing the public with knowledge. Librarians uphold the basic American freedom of the public’s “Right to Know”. The ALA Library Fact Sheet published the following Right To Know guidelines.

The Right to Know is more than free speech. It means people having the information they need to live, learn, work and govern in a democratic society. Every day, librarians across America protect and enhance this important freedom.

Whether they are in an institution of higher learning, the local public library, a school library media center or some other setting, librarians provide not just cold facts but the expertise and services that add meaning to those facts. They make information affordable, available and accessible to people from all walks of life.

Your Right to Know how to participate in a democracy. Librarians provide important information and services to help citizens participate in self-governance. These services range from names and addresses of legislators to codes of law.

Your Right to Know what is published by the government. Librarians work hard to protect the public’s right to see and use information produced by the government at taxpayers expense.

Your Right to Know up-to-the-minute information. A growing number of libraries offer online databases delivering the latest information on health, finance, science and a wide variety of other topics.

Your Right to Know how to get ahead. Many people credit the library with helping them start their successful business careers through use of its business library resources.

Your Right to Know where to get help. Who do you call when you need help finding housing, daycare, a job? For millions of Americans, the answer is their librarian.

Librarians are America’s biggest bargain for business, education—and leisure needs. The librarian, almost alone as a profession, stands between the public and ignorance.

Vandalism In the Library Increases

by Kathryn Johnson, Angela Proctor

What facility is an integral part of the University’s educational mission, is historically underfunded, and being destroyed by its users? If you said the library, no one would believe you, but you would have the right answer. Vandalism is on the increase in the John B. Cade Library. Since August, 1995, the following examples of acts of destruction have been reported:

Fire extinguisher’s were used to spray the carpeted floors in the Music Listening Room and on the second floor; a glass window was broken out on the 2nd floor; graffiti markings were made on the elevator walls and on tables and desks; faucets were ripped off the sinks on the 1st floor; carpet squares were stolen from the third floor; food is found thrown in the water fountains; in the bathroom the commodes are often stopped up with various objects and too much toilet tissue; computer keyboards are misused and broken; holes are cut into the upholstery of chairs.

These acts of vandalism are done by students who are supposed to have come here for an education, to be enlightened, not to continue behaving as they did in the ‘hood. This University is the students’ home away from home. Why would anyone in his right mind tear up his own home? It is incomprehensible that college students would do such things! Usually vandalism follows anger, frustration, and disillusionment. The library and the University have many avenues for all students to talk out, vent, discover, act out one’s anger, etc. If you have grievances with the library, there is always someone that can help you solve your grievance, and most of the time, in your favor. The Dean of the Library, Emma Bradford Perry, is committed to doing everything possible to address the students concerns and informational needs. Do not take your grievances with the library or with the University out on the facility which is put here for your benefit and the benefit for those who will come after you.

It is illegal, it is wrong, it is immoral, to destroy or efface any property that is not legally yours. The library and this University’s facilities are entrusted to you while you are here as a student to use and enjoy as your own. But, it is not yours. It belongs to the state of Louisiana and you can be charged with destruction of property for such acts described above.

Tax Students Get New Software

Tax students now have an easier time of retrieving information for their assignments in their tax classes. The library recently switched from the Commerce Clearing House (CCH) CD-ROM tax database to the Research Institute of America (RIA) CD-ROM database. The rival companies have produced computer products which cover the same information, as do their looseleaf and bound books. However, the CCH computer product includes over 30 discs, whereas RIA has put the same information on 5 discs. Not only is the number of discs used less cumbersome, but the retrieval method with RIA discs are much easier and simpler. The tax course, taught by Dr. Darby, is not offered each semester, however, tax students give the databases a real workout when the class is in session. The databases are located in the Reference Reading Room on the first floor of the library.
Faculty and Staff Updates


- A one-day Windows 95 Seminar held on October 5, 1995, was attended by Sana Alawady, Christopher J. Rogers, Kathryn Johnson, Dawn Kight, and Edwia Richardson.

- A one-day Copyright Law Workshop held at LSU Hill Memorial Library on October 12, 1995 was attended by Angela Proctor, Emma Dean Morrison, and Jane Robinson. The workshop was entitled "Copyright Law and the Age of Technology."

- Christopher J. Rogers, Media Specialist, attended a one-day seminar on "Media 100 Authoring" Systems, on October 19, 1995, in Metairie, La.

Gifts to the Library

The Library gratefully acknowledges gifts received during the 1994-95 academic year from the following donors.

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