



UNCP

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Library Lines

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Sampson-Livermore Library
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

January 2000

University Beats Back Mildew Problem in Library

On October 11, 1999, Government Documents/Special Collections Librarian Lillian Brewington noticed something odd about the *United States Reports*. Each book appeared to have some sort of furry coat growing on the spine. Dr. Elinor Foster, Director of Library Services, was there, so Lillian pointed out the odd-looking spines to her. Immediately, Dr. Foster sent for Jean Sexton, the in-house preservation specialist and leader of the physical disaster team. She took one look at the books and identified the problem as mildew. After extensive checking, the most severely infected area was in the second floor tiled room containing federal documents and the circulating collection from the Cs to the Ms. A less infected area was on the second floor green carpet containing the circulating collection from the As to the Bs and the circulating Folio collection. Although some mildewed volumes were found in the circulating, reference, and juvenile collections downstairs, there did not appear to be a widespread infection there.

According to the third edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, mildew is a superficial coating or discoloration of organic materials, such as cloth, paper, or leather, caused by fungi, especially under damp conditions. Actively growing mildew can be any color, depending on what it is growing on and what species it is. What this mildew appeared to favor as food was the cloth binding of books. Mildew produces enzymes that allow it to eat starch such as the starch adhesives and sizing found in the cloth bound books. It usually only moves to paper (cellulose) long after it appears on the bindings of books.



Mildewed books on library shelves. --Photo by Mary Ellen Majors

Although mildew spores are present everywhere, it takes a suitable environment for them to germinate. According to *Invasion of the Giant Mold Spore*, a leaflet provided by Solinet's preservation services, the optimum conditions for development in a library occur when the temperature is above 70° Fahrenheit and the relative humidity is above 70%. Once established, the mildew can grow in less favorable conditions. According to the university's Physical Plant personnel, the problem probably started when a boiler that heats the air and takes the moisture out went off-line. The control board for the boiler had gone bad and it took the concerted effort of Physical Plant people to come over, check on the boiler and restart it when it was found to have gone off. This procedure was maintained until a new control board was obtained. A device that records the temperature and humidity was bought and placed on a bookshelf among the books so that the environment could be monitored and corrected as necessary. All of this had to be done to alter the favorable environment for mildew growth so that as the books were cleaned, the mildew would not start again.

When it is growing, mildew forms a mass, called a mycelium, and begins to produce spores. It was this mycelium that gave the books the furry appearance that Mrs. Brewington noticed. When looked at closely, the tiny stalks with the spore sacs were visible. Mildew can stain books and will change the appearance of the binding as the mildew eats the starch. If the mildew progresses to the paper, the stains can destroy text and pictures. Books can also be weakened to the point that they are difficult to handle. Mildew can also have an adverse effect on people. Those people with respiratory conditions should avoid the infested area. For this reason, The University contacted an industrial hygienist who assured library personnel that it would not harm anyone. Just to be on the safe side, the mildew was cultured by Dr. Marilu

Continued on Page 2

Mildew Problem in Library

(Continued from Front)

Cleaning mildew from books.

*--Photo by
Mary Ellen
Majors*



Santos in the Biology Department. She also stated the fungus was not toxic, although it could produce respiratory problems or headaches. Until it was verified that the mildew was not dangerous, the infested area was roped off with yellow caution tape. Students were asked to allow library personnel to retrieve and clean books for them before the books left the Library. All workers and volunteers were reminded to wear clothing that could stand washing in warm water with bleach. Anyone with a respiratory problem was discouraged from volunteering in the cleaning as was anyone with any health problems that might be adversely affected by the steady, repetitive cleaning of books. Dust masks were provided with the warning that they would not be effective in stopping any mildew spores, but would provide some relief from dust or the odor of the fungicide.

Mildew is slimy when it is actively growing and will smear on the books. When conditions are not favorable, the mildew will go to an inactive or dormant state. Then it is soft and powdery and can be more easily removed from books. Luckily for the Library, most of the mildew was already inactive when found and the rest soon began to go dormant as the temperature began to rise and the humidity went down. A dehumidifier was set up and the humidity went down even more. With the addition of fans to increase air circulation, the conditions for mildew growth became even less favorable. The blinds were opened to maintain a lighter environment. Although this solution is not ideal as light promotes chemical reactions that cause more acid in paper and fading, it was judged as being preferable to continued mildew growth.

Then began the massive cleanup effort. Physical Plant personnel laid down plastic in an effort to keep the mildew

spores out of the green carpet and tables were set up. During the first week, it became clear that library personnel alone could not clean all the infected books. Through funding by the Office of Academic Affairs, temporary workers were hired and trained to clean the books. Personnel supplied through Physical Plant assisted on a part-time basis also. Thus began a long six weeks of cleaning, from October 12 through November 19, 1999.

Jean Sexton trained the temporary workers and the library volunteers to clean books carefully so as to avoid further damaging the books with the fungicide. Each book had to be cleaned with its own paper towel to avoid spreading mildew from a badly infected book to one that was only mildly infected. She identified the books that needed to be cleaned and made sure that the books were returned to the shelves in the same order they had been in before cleaning. Care was taken to avoid making the books wet and raising the humidity. Some older books had spines with areas which contained bright dye. Those dyes tended to run, but the cleaners tried to keep the colors from smearing all over the book. Books that were badly infested were opened to clean inside the covers. No matter what, no book was returned to the shelf with mildew still on it. The books might not be as pretty as they had been, but they were mildew-free. Pattie Dees, an administrator in University Housekeeping, came by frequently to keep the cleaning crew supplied with paper towels, the cleaning agent, disposable vinyl gloves, and trash bags.

Each week, a luncheon was held to honor the work done and care taken by that week's workers and volunteers. The final week, a party was held to celebrate the end of the main project and all volunteers and current workers were invited. Finally, the books were checked daily for mildew until the Christmas holidays.

What happens next? The books will be checked weekly for mildew until April. The temperature and humidity will continue to be monitored until the environment stabilizes at a temperature and humidity not conducive to mildew growth, but still comfortable to humans and not damaging to books. Generally, this means temperatures from 68° to 72° Fahrenheit and humidity from 45% to 65%, with a maximum change of plus or minus 5% per month. There are a few books that have not been cleaned yet, but will be dealt with on Fridays when extremely casual dress is not as noticeable.

For more information about mold and mildew in libraries see the following web page: <http://www.solinet.net/presvtn/leaf/moldnew.htm>

Jean Sexton



Message from the F. O. L. Co-Presidents



--Photo by Bobby Ayers

It's a standing joke at our house that whenever we take on a new project -- whether it's remodeling the kitchen or selecting new plants for the yard or most anything else -- first we do the literature survey. Books, magazines, and now the Internet are sources that we routinely turn to for information to guide our activities.

We are both trained as scientists, and scientists understand that essentially all scientific progress is made using accumulated knowledge. Isaac Newton is reputed to have said, "If I have seen further than others, it is because I stood on the shoulders of giants." Clearly, he recognized his debt to the knowledge developed by earlier workers.

The Library, of course, is the place we begin our search for resources that might help us with a scholarly project or a task around the house. Connections via the Library also can open doors to the vast lodes of relevant information available electronically.

College students, traditionally, learn to use library print resources. Now, UNCP students, along with most others across the country, turn to the Library for access to the Internet and to multiple electronic data bases. We regularly hear from our colleagues that some students know more about using the computer to find information than faculty members do!

How does that happen? Some students now come from high school already proficient in the use of computers and with extensive experience searching the Internet. Others acquire these skills during their college years. Acquired and honed using facilities such as those in the Sampson-Livermore Library, the capability to use both traditional and electronic information retrieval will serve our students well as they move into careers in the new millennium.

The ability to find useful information, to evaluate information critically, and to apply it to the solution of problems are perhaps the most important competencies that today's college students can develop. The expertise needed most in this fast-paced modern world is, and will continue to be, how to keep one's own knowledge refreshed, up-to-date, and growing. The materials and equipment in place in the Sampson-Livermore Library afford the opportunity to gain and refine those abilities, both for UNCP students and members of the larger community. Library staff guide and facilitate these growth opportunities.

One scholar reported some years ago that he had returned his doctoral diploma to the university which awarded it, because everything he had learned there was obsolete. Some of what today's students learn in the classroom may become obsolete. What those same students learn in the Library may well be their most enduring educational asset.

Drs. Patrick and Suellen Cabe

Book Sale Donations Requested

Once more the Friends of the Library of Sampson-Livermore Library will be sponsoring a used book sale during National Library Week, April 9-15, 2000.

The Friends would appreciate receiving books, magazines, videos, recordings, posters, and other such items suitable for the book sale. All proceeds go to benefit projects sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Please bring any items you wish to donate to the Library, or give Jean Sexton a call at 521-6659 if you would like these items picked up and brought to the Library. A letter acknowledging donations will be available if requested.

Director's Column



--Photo by Bobby Ayers

You saw it in the lead article: our big concern this fall has been "project mildew." Without the assistance provided by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Physical Plant Division of the Office of Business Affairs, our eradication project could not have been carried out. What has been accomplished is the rescue of one of the major assets of the University, the majority of its circulating book collection.

Physical Plant provided cases of Lysol® spray and paper towels, as well as some assistance with the work force, and the temperature and humidity levels were monitored. **Pattie Dees, Eleanor Fields, and Larry Freeman**, under the direction of Director **Bernard Locklear**, were most helpful.

Academic Affairs provided funding for temporary workers who labored for six weeks to individually treat each affected book.

Library staff member **Jean Sexton**, Assistant Director and Coordinator of Technical Services, took the lead in masterminding this project. Realizing the gravity of the situation, she put her cataloging duties on hold and took on the task of eradicating the mildew and thereby saving the collection she has cataloged for 16 years. She identified affected books, instructed workers in how to clean, pulled books off shelves and replaced them after they were treated, and supervised the temporary work crew. These tasks were tedious and tiring most of the time. She was pleased with the work of the "temps" and treated them to lunch on four occasions. Evenings, after the workers left, Jean spent time in her office trying to do some catchup work, and she carried out her Reference Desk duties as assigned. Jean Sexton is truly a dedicated library employee.

Other library staff members assisted as their health and time permitted. These included **Lillian Brewington, Tela Brooks, Robert Canida, Carlene Cummings, Michael Cummings, Shirley Learn, Mary Ellen Majors, June Mills, Vivian Mullin-Oxendine, and Susan Whitt**. Some student workers were able to provide a few hours of assistance also. Everyone's volunteer assistance was greatly appreciated.

Library staff also responded helpfully when called upon to provide additional hours of operation during the exam period. December 1-14 the Library was open until 2:00 AM Sunday through Thursday nights, as well as additional hours weekend nights. Exam workers included all librarians and evening closing personnel, and also a temporary worker, **Rhonda Brewington**, whose salary was paid by the Office of Academic Affairs.

My message this issue is that when circumstances call for extraordinary efforts in order to provide the best services to library users, our Sampson-Livermore Library staff meets all challenges. They are one of the great assets of UNC Pembroke, and I respectfully salute them and hope our readers join me in doing so.

In closing, I would like to add that we on the library staff value and appreciate all the support we receive from our Friends of the Library. Some dedicate time to the furtherance of the library's mission and all provide financial support. Outstanding support during the 1999-2000 academic year has been received from our Co-presidents, Dr. Pat Cabe and Dr. Suellen Cabe. Not only do they provide advice and leadership; they recently became Lifetime Members. Thanks, Pat and Suellen, and all our other Friends!

Elinor Folger Foster, Director of Library Services

Friends of the Library Sponsor Writing Contest

Writers wanted! Opportunity to win as much as \$100! The Friends of the **Sampson-Livermore** Library are sponsoring a writing contest and offering prizes totaling \$700. The prize winning writers will be asked to read their original, unpublished, award-winning pieces of poetry or short prose at a program held during National Library Week on the UNCP campus. There are four categories: UNCP students, UNCP faculty and staff, Robeson County high school juniors and seniors, and residents of Robeson County and Friends of the Sampson-Livermore Library not included in the above categories. The prize amounts are \$100 for each first place win, \$50 for each second place, and \$25 for each third place win. The guidelines and application form are included in the newsletter. Feel free to distribute copies of the form and guidelines to interested contestants. But hurry! This offer ends on March 1, 2000!

Jean Sexton



www.uncp.edu/library
1-800-949-UNCP

Poetry and Short Prose Contest Guidelines

1. The entries must be 500 words or less, are not limited as to theme, and must be typed.
2. The entries must be original and unpublished.
3. All entries will be blind-judged, so only the title will appear on the submission. The judges' decisions will be final.
4. There are four categories:
UNCP students,
UNCP faculty and staff,
Robeson County high school juniors and seniors,
Residents of Robeson County and Friends of the Sampson-Livermore Library
not included in the above categories.
5. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category:
\$100 for first place,
\$50 for second place,
\$25 for third place.
6. Each writer of an award winning entry will be invited to read the piece at a program during National Library Week.
7. Deadline for submission of the entry with an application is March 1, 2000. All entries postmarked after this date will not be accepted.
8. For return of any entries, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
9. Send entries to:

Jean Sexton
Chair, National Library Week Committee
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Sampson-Livermore Library
P.O. Box 1510
Pembroke, NC 28372-1510

**Application for
Poetry and Short Prose Contest
*Deadline, March 1, 2000***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Home Phone: _____

Entry category: _____

Title of entry: _____

LIBRARY USE ONLY

Date postmarked: _____

Number of words: _____

Number of entry: _____

(comprised of category A-D and number)

SASE included? _____

Library Staff Welcomes Michael Cummings

In November 1999, Mr. Michael Cummings joined the Sampson-Livermore Library staff in Reference, Cataloging, and Government Documents/Special Collections departments as a temporary Reference/Catalog Assistant. While serving in this position, he will provide assistance to the technical and public service areas of the Library. Michael replaced former Retrospective Conversion Cataloger, Mr. Charles Green, who worked at UNCP from 1995-1999.

Michael is a native of Robeson County. He currently resides in Pembroke with his family, wife Tina and three children Mia, Midori and Mick.

Michael is also a product of UNC Pembroke, where he recently received his Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Computer Graphics and participated in the University's first Winter Commencement Ceremony.

Michael is gifted as pertains to work with computers, especially in the area of computer design. While a student, his art work was displayed in several UNCP exhibits. Currently, Michael has several pieces of his work on loan at Hewitts Interiors, Lumberton.

While a student at UNCP, Michael worked as a student assistant in the University Print Shop and the Sampson-Livermore Library's Interlibrary Loan department. Michael proved to be an asset to the Interlibrary Loan department during his two year term of employment. Michael also worked as a 1999 Summer Library Assistant in the Circulation Department.

In Michael's short tenure, he has made some great contributions to the Library, and the staff is glad to have him aboard.

Michael's future plans are to obtain his Master of Fine Arts degree and teach secondary education art.

Robert L. Canida, II



Focus on the Friends

On Sunday afternoon, November 7, 1999, the Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke held their first activity of the 1999-2000 academic year. It was the lively, informative, and entertaining talk, "Gravestone Art and Rhetoric," given by Dr. Bruce Ezell, Dean of Graduate Studies at UNCP. Dr. Ezell, who also teaches biology, is an avid amateur historian.

Studying gravestones has been a pastime of Dr. Ezell for years and has been a way to investigate history. A cemetery reflects society and is a primary source for learning about people and their times. The shapes, symbols, and epithets of gravestones can reflect religious beliefs, status in society, military history, and family nationality, among other things. Slides in his program showed the development of the death angel symbolism, the romance of the Victorians, and the humor of the Puritans, as well as other interesting information.

Dr. Ezell also spoke of the fragility of gravestones. When making a rubbing of a gravestone, never use chalk. It is the worst substance one can use and will damage the gravestone. Use a soft crayon and stroke in one direction only. Lift off the relief and spray it front and back with acrylic. This procedure will lift off even illegible writing and designs.

The Friends of the Library hope to sponsor other interesting and exciting programs, even one and two day bus trips. Look and listen for information on our dinner highlighting notable Robesonians. A trip to the Biltmore House and Flat Rock, North Carolina, is in the works. Specifics will be forthcoming.

The Sampson-Livermore Library benefits greatly from the support of our Friends organization. It supports our Library's collections, promotes use of the Library as a community resource, sponsors cultural programs and special events, and raises the visibility of the Library. If you would like to learn more about and want to join this group, come to the Library or go to the Library's home page (www.uncp.edu/library) and click on *Sampson-Livermore Library Information*.

Susan F. Whitt

Library Staff Makes Pottery Excursion

pot•ter•y (pŏt'-e-rê) - *noun*, pl. potteries, French poterie, from Old French from potier, see potiche, 15th century.

1. Clayware, such as vases, pots, bowls, or plates, shaped from moist clay and hardened by heat, usually in a kiln.
2. The craft or occupation of a potter; the manufacture of clayware.
3. The place where clayware is made and fired or where a potter works.

ex•cur•sion (ik-'skûr-zhen) - *noun*, Latin excursion-, excursio, from excurrere, est. 1587.

1. A usually short journey; an outing.
2. A going out or forth; an expedition.
3. A group taking a short trip together.

(According to *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 3rd edition)

During fall break, on Friday, October 15th, a North Carolina pottery excursion was embarked upon as part of the Library's ongoing staff development efforts. Two vans emerged promptly at 8:00 a.m. from the University grounds with high-spirited bibliophiles ready to soak up some clayware culture.

The backroads of Pembroke yielded way to Raeford and Southern Pines, and finally, Robbins, Westmoore, and Whynot. With a little time to spare before the official pottery tour, the group stopped at Nichols Pottery to peruse the Nichols family wares and get some Christmas gift ideas. Later, the group returned to purchase items and make special orders. Within 30 minutes the pottery seekers were listening to Jody Owens of Owens Pottery explain the process by which clay becomes cherished pottery, whether functional or decorative. The walking tour at the Owens' home place allowed the staff to experience the path that clay must take before it reaches the kiln.



A potter at Owens Pottery in Seagrove, NC, displays his work.

Making the trip to the Potteries of the Seagrove Area were Brenda Bullock, Robert Canida, Carlene Cummings, Susan Cummings, Dr. Elinor Foster, Patsy Hunt, Shirley Learn, Mary Ellen Majors, and Cindy Saylor. As always, the Library remains open on staff development days and is staffed with volunteers who stay behind.

Cynthia E. Saylor



A potter at Owen Pottery demonstrates her craft.

Next, library staff perused the wares of Ben Owen Pottery and took a tour of the on-site museum and grounds. Having learned that Ben Owen was the original potter who settled in Seagrove and that eight or nine generations of potters have followed in craft, many of the staff purchased a piece of this original Owen pottery for the historical significance.

As always, "it's all about the food," and The Westmoore Restaurant served as the perfect place to dine for the tired and hungry crew. Catfish, crabcakes, country vegetables, and decadent, homemade desserts were centerpieces to the lively conversation about the history of the area, the delicious mystery of baked beans cooked in pottery, and the clayware that decorates the restaurant.

The North Carolina Pottery Center provided library staff with a plethora of clayware examples, as well as museum and video history of pottery and the generations of people who have molded the traditional craft into an art form. After taking the self-guided tour, many staff members walked to a few consignment shops surrounding the Center to view other potters' examples for possible purchase and enlightenment.

Staff Development Tour "Explores Science"

August 11 the Library's Staff Development Committee, chaired by **Jean Sexton**, sponsored an "Exploring Science Day" for staff who were available to participate. Stops included the Brunswick Nuclear Plant Visitors Center, Southport, N.C., and the State Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Library Displays Are Both Controversial and Historical

The Sampson-Livermore Library Art, Displays, and Exhibits Committee has been working overtime in the last few months showcasing both controversial topics and items of historical and local interest. Throughout the fall semester, the entrance of the Library's Reading Room has greeted visitors with a wide array of eye-catching and thought-provoking displays. Patrons have been surprised by a yellow police caution tape warning "Banned Books Ahead," have been given a glimpse of life millions of years ago, and have been afforded the opportunity to view the horrors of breast cancer through graphic images of survivors.



Earth Science Week Display

During October, Earth Science Week was celebrated with a fossil display from the collection of Instructional Services/Reference Librarian Cindy Saylor. Each fossil was identified by name and the location for which it was found, as well as classified by the epoch or time period in which each item lived. Dr. Suellen Cabe, current Co-president of the Friends of the Library, was instrumental in the fossil identification process, and also donated an Earth Science Week poster for display.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is also known as Pink October. Books from the Library's collection were on display, as well as pamphlets from Student Health Services. One book provided a poignant photographic glimpse of a couple wherein the woman had experienced a double mastectomy. The procedure for performing a self-breast exam was also provided.

The display cases showcased Native American History Month in November. The items presented in one display were donated by the UNCP Native American Student Organization (NASO). The items of historical significance included a doll, a drum, ceremonial dress, and a dream catcher. Vinita "Cookie" Maynor-Clark supplied the local history artifacts for the other display case. Patrons viewed a painting from "Strike At The Wind," photographs from the spring 1999 Lumbee Pow Wow, and a painting of local legend Henry Berry Lowrie.

The Arts, Displays, and Exhibits Committee welcomes suggestions, loans, and/or donations of artifacts, collections, or specimen to be considered for future display. Contact Carlene Cummings at 521-6483 for further information.

Carlene O. Cummings and Cynthia E. Saylor

Coming Soon!

Watch for the membership drive sponsored by the Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

An Invitation To Join

"A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature." -Emerson

FRIENDS OF THE SAMPSON-LIVERMORE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please use this form to become a member of the Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. The form and your check, made out to UNCP, should be mailed to: Membership Chair, Friends of the Library Committee, Sampson-Livermore Library, UNC Pembroke, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372-1510. Phone 1-800-949-UNCP



I would like to support the Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke through the following (please check as appropriate):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNCP Student Membership \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership \$400.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Life Membership \$5,000.00 |

Name _____ Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. (Circle correct title)

Mailing Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE Check here if you would like to serve on an FOL committee

This edition of *Library Lines* was edited by Jean Sexton (sexton@nat.uncp.edu) and Susan Whitt (whitt@nat.uncp.edu). Members of the Newsletter Committee were: Robert L. Canida, II, Dr. Elinor F. Foster (ex-officio), Gwendolyn Locklear, and Cynthia E. Saylor. Contributors included Drs. Patrick and Suellen Cabe. Photography was by Cynthia E. Saylor, except where noted. Questions: 910-521-6656 or 1-800-949-UNCP.

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