In Her Element

Librarian Lives Out Dream in Uptown Charlotte

“When I’m watching a show, I feel that I am in the moment. I’m experiencing something that can’t ever be replicated.”

While many of us have an entire list of “my favorite things” that we used to do, Lolita Rowe has continued to stay passionate with at least one of her “favorite things,” something that originated early in her life. And when you see the twinkle in her eyes when she shares her thoughts about FOX’s television production of GREASE, it really was “the word” for her as she recalls learning how to read when she saw the movie of GREASE on television and the moment she read the word to her grandmother. For Rowe, learning that one word turned out to be a connection that she has never let go.

“I discovered live theater while watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade when I was a little girl. I loved seeing the performances from the musicals. Although I haven’t actually seen a production on Broadway, my involvement with Club Blume has gotten me pretty close to experiencing what that is actually like. The club allows me to enjoy one of my favorite things, seeing a Broadway show and being able to afford a ticket to the productions,” says Rowe, Archives Specialist in Special Collections & University Archives.

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Spring is just around the corner. We are all looking forward to longer days, warmth, sunshine, and the opportunity to get outside.

**Adverse Weather**

Thank you for your patience with this winter as we adjusted to changes in the Adverse Weather policies multiple times.

**Kronos**

February brought the implementation of the Kronos timekeeping system, which involves an unanticipated, steep learning curve. Please be patient while all of us figure out how to use the system. Your supervisor will attempt to answer your questions, but may have to ask Trang, the timekeeper designated by the University, to obtain answers from the team that is responsible for the implementation of the system. As Heather indicated in the training sessions, the system will ensure that SHRA employees are paid for time worked. Once we get used to it, Kronos should be an improvement over paper reporting.

**Facilities Improvements**

General: The existing security cameras will be upgraded and more will be installed. We hope to have the digital display monitors installed this spring.

First Floor: The furniture for the first floor should begin arriving during spring break. The first floor bathrooms will be renovated over the summer.

Second Floor: Conversations are underway to re-seat staff in Collection Services and Interlibrary Loan. The Visualization Lab will be constructed over the summer. We are beginning the process to inventory the serials, decide what will happen with each title, and move selected materials to remote storage. Meanwhile, we are working on the plans for student spaces on the second floor. We may also enlarge the administrative suite towards the atrium and move more staff into that area. We do not have a timeline for such modifications.

**Growing Staff**

Searches are launching for three positions: the Associate Deans for Special Collections and University Archives, Public Services, and the Copyright and Licensing Librarian. We hope to have these positions filled by July 1. The Director of Access Services position has been advertised. The applications are under review for the Technology Support Technician (Technology Resources Coordinator), which was formerly Debbie Myers’ position.

**Conversations with the Dean**

As an opportunity for open communication and a way to generate new ideas, I am delighted to invite library employees to a one-hour open conversation with the Dean each month. The Associate/Assistant Deans will not be invited. Anyone who has a question, has an idea that might improve our services, spaces, or collections, or wants to hear the conversation, is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. The first conversation was held on Wednesday, February 24 from 2-3 p.m. in 271.
Library Administration and Special Collections Welcome New Staff

Marquita Smith

I am from Fayetteville, NC and I am the new Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Library. I started on January 4th. Before coming to the library, I worked at Fayetteville State University. For the past ten years, I worked in various departments including the Office of Career Services, The Educational Talent Search (TRiO), Program and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. I’m excited about learning my new position and getting to know my supervisor as well as my colleagues and being a part of the library family. I also enjoy billiards. It’s one of my favorite hobbies.

Katie Howell

I’m from Charlotte, but I grew up in the Milwaukee, WI area and spent time living in Chicago and Austin, TX before moving to North Carolina in 2011. I am the University Archivist and I started working here on February 1st. Prior to joining Atkins Library, I was the Archivist for Central Piedmont Community College. I studied Art History at DePaul University in Chicago and I got my MS in Information Studies at the University of Texas-Austin. I enjoy reading, cooking, and most of all, spending time with my 8-month-old daughter, Henrie. I’m very excited to be a part of the library team and look forward to sharing the University’s history with the faculty, staff and students!

This Just In!

Dawn Schmitz Accepted into the Archives Leadership Institute

The Archives Leadership Institute (ALI) is a program funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and is being hosted at Berea College for the years 2016-2018. ALI provides advanced training for 25 archival leaders each year, giving them the knowledge and the tools to transform the profession in practice, theory and attitude.

The Archives Leadership Institute will take place June 19-25—Congratulations Dawn!

January

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Club Blume is a social group for young adults in their 20s and 30s sponsored by the Blumenthal Performing Arts. The club seeks to engage the community by combining mingling, dining and education. Members enjoy special offers like pre-show mixers, reserved seating with other young adults as well as other great perks for members.

“Learning about the productions is what attracted me to Club Blume. I’ve taken my interest of plays and musicals to another level. In addition to seeing the productions that are offered in Uptown at the Blumenthal, and also other places like Spirit Square, as a member you can attend receptions where you mingle and get to have a catered meal with other club members who love theater. You also have an opportunity to go to talks, called Informances, about the show. I enjoy the Informances because I get to learn things like how the production was actually put together. When I saw Beauty and the Beast, I learned how they were actually able to pull off the beast’s transformation into the prince. They actually share the details and the secrets of what happens behind the scenes,” says Rowe.

Although the focus of Club Blume is theater, the social group is also providing outreach and networking opportunities that bring awareness to local businesses and organizations in the Charlotte community. Rowe says, “the Informances are usually presented by a local business owner in the community who isn’t associated with the performance. This partnership allows individuals to promote their business or services to the club members. I’ve learned a lot about Charlotte just by attending the Club Blume events.”

Originally from Swansea, South Carolina, this theater lover’s description of what watching a live performance is like is expressed with deep emotion, one only true admirers of the craft can appreciate. “When I’m watching a show, I feel that I am in the moment. I’m experiencing something that can’t ever be replicated. With live performances, your imagination is free and unlimited by the creativity that the performers use to convey a message to the audience and I enjoy that so much,” say Rowe.

Although Rowe hasn’t made it to the Big Apple to experience a Broadway play, her involvement in Club Blume has given her the opportunity to see several performances right here in the Queen City. They include Matilda, Sister Act, Ghost the Musical, Cinderella, Bombay Dreams and Once.
Getting to Know Atkins Library

Notable Names

Barry Falls
I am the Roaming Services Coordinator.
I have worked for Atkins Library for four years and six months. Three of those years I was an undergraduate student.

I am originally from Illinois.

In my free time I like to cook.

Many people don’t know that I served as a missionary in Peru and Ecuador.

When I was younger, I wanted to read books 24 hours a day.

If I had three wishes they would be to have a successful Mellon Grant completion, get my health back and to retire in a few years.

Susan Pardue
I am the Library Technician at the Circulation and Reserves Desk.
I have worked for Atkins for 17 years.
I am originally from North Wilkesboro, NC.

In my free time, I like to read, go to concerts, and take pictures of our Russian blue Millay.

Many people don’t know that I once received a three-page rejection letter from a publisher instead of the standard rejection slip for a manuscript.

The last book I read was *The Little Black Book of Innovation*, by Scott D. Anthony.

When I was younger, I wanted to be a landscape architect. I loved the idea of developing models and seeing them turn into rooftop gardens, college quads, public parks and landscapes.

If I had three wishes they would be to be able to travel the world, to master an instrument and to have more time in the day.

Chuck Hamaker
I work solely on the Mellon Grant.
I have worked at Atkins since January 1998.

I’m originally from Illinois.

In my free time I like to cook.

Many people don’t know that I served as a missionary in Peru and Ecuador.

When I was younger, I wanted to read books 24 hours a day.

If I had 3 wishes, they would be to have a successful Mellon Grant completion, get my health back and to retire in a few years.

Nicole Spoor
I am the Business Librarian.
I have worked for Atkins for three and a half years.
I am originally from Texas.

In my free time I usually watch parts of an episode of NCIS or Downton Abbey that I have recorded.

Many people don’t know that I used to be a pageant queen. (Ugh...I cringed as I wrote that).

The last book I read was *Mr. Popper’s Penguins*.

When I was younger, I wanted to be an archaeologist, but realized that I didn’t like dirt or spiders.

If I had three wishes they would be for political candidates to not be allowed to say mean things about other candidates, for people to be more tolerant of others, and for my children to ALWAYS want to snuggle with me before bed.
Bonnie Cole knew she wanted to make a change. Getting the “right look” was the challenge. And when she found a way to do it, she went all the way to New York City to work with the best in the industry. Call it a coincidence or simply call her lucky. Either way, Cole won big and landed in the spotlight on the Rachael Ray Show.

With hundreds of women completing a website entry form for a chance to win the Jaw-Dropping Groundhog Day Makeover, Cole turned out to be exactly what the show was looking for—after all, she was still sporting the same hairstyle since high school.

“I typically don’t concern myself with fashion trends. I prefer comfort over style and I don’t like shopping. I feel like I’ve been stuck in the 80s and I haven’t changed my style since then. I wanted a new look. By seeing women my age looking stylish and still comfortable, I gained confidence in knowing that it was time for me to make a change too,” says Cole, Billing Specialist for Circulation and Reserves.

As the winner of the contest, Cole got the change she was looking for, something she welcomed with no limitations. She went “all in” giving the makeover crew control over everything such as style of clothes, hair color and makeup. This was one decision she felt comfortable with especially when she learned that she would be working with Project Runway’s fashion consultant, Tim Gunn.

“For the actual makeover reveal, they picked out half a dozen outfits and matching shoes for me to try and I was able to provide input as to those I liked the best. So they did give me a little part in the selection of clothes. I wasn’t allowed to see myself at all while they were doing my hair and makeup. All the mirrors were covered, but I could tell when they were doing certain things like cutting my hair or putting color on my hair, but my new look was supposed to really be a surprise. They brought me from the salon to the studio blind-folded,” says Cole.

Not only was Cole totally surprised with her new look, she was also surprised to learn that this

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“I loved being pampered and chauffeured around like I was a celebrity. I had a dressing room with my name on my door and I really felt special, but this whole experience was out of my comfort zone. I was in New York City, a place that is very unfamiliar to me. Although I come across as outgoing, I am really quite the introvert. My husband is my social crutch. So being whisked around by strangers was not the easiest thing for me. The whole makeover process was slightly difficult for me because I wasn’t used to anything like it.” says Cole.

According to Cole, winning a makeover from a TV show does have its perks, especially when everything is free. “I got to keep the clothes, accessories and shoes that they used for the makeover. The Rachael Ray Show paid for everything. They paid for our plane tickets, our hotel and they even gave us a stipend for meals,” says Cole.

The Rachael Ray Show

Test Your Knowledge

Answers:

- 1,000+ faculty and 3,200+ employees
- Time Warner, Channel 22
- President Barak Obama (2008 – the eve of the election)